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7 May 1985

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BAHRAIN

QUALITY OF PRESS, GOVERNMENT CONTROL SCORED

Manama SADA AL-USBU' in Arabic 12 Mar 85 pp 6-8

[Article by 'Ali Siyar: "Our Press Is Ridiculed inside the Country and Scorned Abroad"]

[Text] Before picking up a pen to write this article, I reread what fellow journalist 'Abdallah Khalifah wrote in last week's issue of SADA AL-USBU'. In that article, which was entitled, "Iftahu al-Nawafidh lil Hawa' al-Talq," [Let the Fresh Air in!] Mr Khalifah dealt with the status of the press in Bahrain from his experience and the experience of our other colleagues in the country's only daily newspaper, AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ [News of the Gulf], the only newspaper that is prescribed for Bahraini citizens to read.

I admit right at the outset that I was so moved by the fellow journalist's article that I was prompted to write an article supporting and affirming every word he had written.

Although the fellow journalist's discussion of AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ was within the intellectual boundaries that were set for the newspaper's editors, [let me say that] these boundaries are narrow. They've turned the newspaper into a one-dimensional, single-track publication that speaks in one voice.

Although the fellow journalist dealt with AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ from that perspective and although he succeeded in observing and spotlighting its dark aspect, what I want to do here is discuss matters that are apropos of that subject, without digressing from the fundamental issue raised by the fellow journalist.

What comes to mind as I review what our press has come to, as that was explained in detail by my colleague in his article, is a question that is also on other people's minds. Why did AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ after the death of its founder, the late Mahmud al-Mardi, turn into a lame newspaper that seems to function at only half of its capacity?

The answer to that question is neither difficult nor, I think, imperceptible to those who are employed in the press or to readers who have turned recently into spectators watching inferior shows in a poorly managed, irreputable circus.

When readers lack the freedom to select the daily newspaper they wish to read; when they cannot express their preferences to compare and select from the newspapers that are available; and when the Ministry of Information turns into something like a police agency whose only concern is to consolidate the presence of that one newspaper--if one may use those terms in this context--and foil every plan to publish a second daily newspaper, the result of all that can only be those scanty pickings that characterize the press in Bahrain and manifest themselves particularly in Bahrain's largest newspaper, AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ. This is a newspaper whose chairman of the board knows nothing about the press. AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ is a newspaper whose director general is semi-illiterate as far as journalism is concerned. The most experience he has had in the press is that which he had selling newspapers.

One wonders what is it that might be achieved by the likes of those who accidentally found themselves in positions of prominence in the press after having joined that profession from the back door: the door of selling newspapers from newspaper stands in the streets! The late Mahmud al-Mardi--may God forgive him--may be partially responsible for allowing the likes of those intruders on the press to share with him the responsibility of publishing AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ. I do not doubt for a single moment that had he known what the newspaper to which he had devoted his life would come to, he would have shut it down before leaving this world. Mr al-Mardi left this world before completing his mission.

We must nevertheless admit that the fault does not lie with the employees of AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ who operate within the boundaries set for them by the newspaper's management. The fault does lie in the climate that has been imposed by the Ministry of Information. As we said before, the ministry has created a climate in which AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ reports what it sees, hears and experiences from one perspective only.

We may even state with the confidence of knowing that what we are saying is true, that it is the Ministry of Information and no one else that is responsible for the deterioration of journalism standards, not only in AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, but also in all of Bahrain's newspapers. We may also state that it is the Ministry of Information and no one else that can improve the status of journalism in Bahrain in general, not just in AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ. Incidentally, we may mention that period during which al-Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak was responsible for the media. During that period, which may be called the golden age of the press, the press played its part competently. Readers could find more than one opinion expressed in the press, whose climate was so rich, vital and truthful that even ministers felt impelled to write newspaper articles without any embarrassment. We used to read articles by Dr 'Ali Fakhru, Mr Yusuf al-Shirawi, the late 'Abd-al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Khalifah, Mr 'Abd-al-Karim and many others.

This meant that the press during those days was the healthy product of media agencies that were free from tension, complexes and attitudes of superiority with which Ministry of Information officials view the press today.

Because of the Ministry of Information's unwise policy our press became the object of scorn abroad and ridicule inside the country. Because of its scanty and meager offerings it can neither reach Gulf citizens--not to mention Arab citizens--nor can it earn the respect of Bahraini readers who are still trying to find what they seek in a newspaper in Kuwaiti and other Gulf newspapers. Herein may lie the secret of the appreciation, tributes and deferential treatment afforded to every member of Kuwait's press corps who visits our country.

Any Kuwaiti newspaperman who visits our country is greeted at the airport like a conqueror. Banquets are held in his honor, and he is escorted to meet with top state officials.

We have no objections to that. Such tributes, which are ultimately tributes to the journalist's country, are appropriate.

But we regret to say that a Bahraini journalist finds the opposite of that treatment wherever he goes in the Gulf, not to mention the Arab homeland. There the most that is done for him is that a hotel room is reserved for him and paid for by his host, the Ministry of Information. After that, the journalist is on his own: it is up to him to play the part of a journalist and meet with state officials if he wishes.

This, of course, is not the fault of Bahraini journalists who, despite the difficult circumstances and the limitations under which they operate, proved that they can transcend their reality and shine in the darkness of night. If these Bahraini journalists were to find themselves in circumstances that are more favorable than those misearable circumstances, they would become even more brilliant.

We are saying that it is the Ministry of Information's manner of dealing with the press and with journalists that is to blame for the condition of our press, a condition that pleases neither foe nor friend.

This manner is exemplified in the ministry's constant refusal to allow the publication of a second daily newspaper. The ministry's refusal is irrational, unjustifiable and unreasonable. It does not serve the public interest at all. On the one hand, it divests the existing daily newspaper of any ambition and tendency to change and develop because there are no newspapers competing with it. And on the other hand, journalists become frustrated because they have to be associated with the only existing daily newspaper, even if that association costs them their convictions and capabilities as journalists.

When the Ministry of Information refuses to allow the publication of a second daily newspaper, it is acting like an ostrich. The influence of another daily newspaper in Bahrain will not be greater than that which is exercised by Kuwaiti newspapers which are read and sought by Bahraini citizens all the time, even though they do not become available to readers until one day after they are issued.

A parenthetical remark: In the past Kuwaiti newspapers were sold in Bahrain the day they came out. However, the agency that sells these newspapers decided to delay their availability in the market so that the circulation of AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ would not be affected. That agency owns some shares in AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ. End of parenthetical remark!

Let's go back to our previous subject: that of not allowing the publication of a second daily newspaper. We have a right to ask the Ministry of Information--and we know in advance that it will not answer our question--why does it insist on turning down all applications for publishing a second daily newspaper even though these applications do not contravene the publications law?

Doesn't the Ministry of Information know that Kuwait has five daily newspapers? Doesn't it know that the Emirates has four dailies and Qatar two, with a third about to be published? Doesn't this mean anything to the ministry? Doesn't this mean that the world around us is moving and we in Bahrain are the only ones who are refusing to move, change and modernize? Don't officials in the Ministry of Information know that times have changed and that people and circumstances are different? Don't officials in the Ministry of Information know that the birth of a daily newspaper in the country is a highly significant indicator of the fact that the state of the country is good and that there is more than one outlet for public opinion? Don't ministry officials realize that the establishment of newspapers in the country is in itself a healthy phenomenon indicative of that society's health? Don't they also realize that it also means that the regime which is in power in that society is one that is neither frightened nor paranoid?

We might find an excuse for the Ministry of Information's refusal to allow the publication of a second and even a third or a fourth daily newspaper--indeed Bahrain can most certainly accommodate that number of dailies--if it would only tell us why it is denying people the freedom to do what they wish to do, provided they abide by the laws and customs that are in effect.

But the Ministry of Information tells [us] nothing. Instead, it plays the part of a mute who is also blind and deaf. A man who is so intellectually incapacitated cannot, even if all the treasures of the world were available to him, do anything of value. The most that such a man can do is amuse himself by watching inconsequential phenomena around him, such as AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ and other weekly magazines.

One of the most curious facts about the press in Bahrain is that its members find it embarrassing when they are abroad to talk about that subject to fellow professionals. A discussion of one's professional affiliation has to be something that one can be proud of and value. A defeated warrior cannot brag about his defeat.

We've said this more than once, but let's say it again and again: the power of the press stems from the power of the state. In fact, the power of the press is the power of the state; it is something the state should be proud of and value. A state cannot be powerful unless its press is strong, dynamic and vital. No country in the world would try to establish its international, regional and local presence with scanty and primitive media tools. The idea that a strong press will create problems for the state, inflame the old wounds in a tired body, and give those who are responsible for state affairs a headache and cause to worry is not only erroneous but also destructive.

Those who still believe that weakening local media agencies guards against storms must learn more about the revolution that science has introduced into communications devices. They have to come closer to the source of light so they can realize that the world, which is approaching the 21st century, is no longer that world whose parts are far away from each other. [The world is such a small place] now that we can hear Reagan crack his fingers when he walks into his oval office. We can feel and even smell the bodies that are being burned by the fires of Israel's paranoid artillery in south Lebanon.

Those who think they can live in isolation in the world or those who think they can turn their backs on technology, which shortened distances and eliminated the boundaries of time and place, are only daydreaming. They are creating for themselves an imaginary world that will soon fade away with the first sign of daylight.

At any rate, let's set the question of a second daily newspaper aside, despite its importance, and let's let the Ministry of Information dispose of citizens' applications for publishing a second newspaper as though they were the shameful deeds of the devil. Let's set all that aside and ask the minister of information this question: "Mr Minister, how many times a month do you meet with the editors in chief? I beg your pardon! This is how the question ought to be phrased: Mr Minister, how many times a year do you meet with them to talk? How many times do you discuss with them their issues, problems, conditions and how their capabilities may be developed?"

Do we have the right to tell the minister that Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwait's former minister of information used to meet with editors-in-chief of Kuwaiti newspapers once a week? Do we have the right to tell him that editors-in-chief of Kuwaiti newspapers always had access to the minister himself and to his office? Do we have the right to tell him that Sabah al-Ahmad made all information that was available to him about the domestic and foreign affairs of the state available to them? The minister gave the editors-in-chief this information not so they can publish it, but so they would know everything that was going on in their country. He wanted them to know all the ideas that the state had about all local, Arab and international issues as well as what they could or could not print.

Do we have the right to tell the minister that the annual promotional subsidy which Kuwait earmarks for its daily and weekly publications is 250,000 Kuwaiti dinars for a daily newspaper and 40,000 Kuwaiti dinars (55,000 Bahraini dinars) for a weekly publication? In addition, Kuwait gives these newspapers and publications land at a nominal price, and it offers them interest free loans so they can set up printing presses and offices for these newspapers.

Do we have the right to tell the minister that all daily and weekly newspapers in Kuwait have their own offices and printing presses?

Do we have the right to tell the minister that Qatar's Ministry of Information earmarks 1.5 million Qatari riyals for a daily newspaper and one third that amount for a weekly magazine? Do we have the right to tell him that the buildings, including offices and printing presses, for two newspaper firms have been completed? These are the buildings for the firms of al-'Ahd and al-'Urubah, which were inaugurated by the minister of information a week ago.

Do we have the right to tell the minister that the 10,000 dinars which his ministry pays as a promotional subsidy to weekly magazines--it is the minister's misfortune that this sum has not yet been paid to newspapers even though we are now in the third month of the new year--covers no more than the costs of printing two issues--and we stress two issues--of SADA AL-USBU'?

Do we have the right to ask these and many other questions?

Yes indeed, we do, Mr Minister!

We have 1,001 questions, but until we hear what the Ministry of Information has to say about the few questions that we asked, we will keep the other questions for another time, even as we affirm that we would like nothing better than to open our eyes and find that other opinions are being expressed, no matter how different these opinions are from ours and no matter how harsh they are on us.

And, until we hear what the Ministry of Information has to say, [I hope] the minister will permit us to join our colleague, 'Abdallah Khalifah in exclaiming, "Yes, let's have some fresh air! Nothing like fresh air can improve the circulation in the ailing body of the press!"

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ISRAEL

BRIEFS

NO EGYPTIAN TOURISTS FROM TABAH--Since April, only eight Egyptian citizens have used the border crossing from Tabah to Elat. This emerges from a study, conducted by the HA'ARETZ correspond, which shows that of these eight, five were guests of the Egyptian consul: an Egyptian liaison officer and his family, the consul's son, the director of a tourist agency, and a journalist. The other three are Egyptian citizens who came to Elat on business. It emerges that not one Egyptian citizen visited Elat as a tourist. The border crossing at Tabah has been open for almost 3 years, since April 1982. In contrast to Israelis, who are given a visa for southern Sinai alone, the Egyptian visitors are entitled to use their visa to reach as far as Beersheba, something which they are not taking advantage of. Israeli military sources have explained the Egyptians' lack of desire to visit Tabah by the fact that they are unwilling to legitimize Israeli rule over Tabah. The sources pointed out that once Egyptian citizens cross Tabah and pass through the Israeli terminal, the matter will become a fait accompli, and they do not want this. In contrast to this, the study shows that over the past 3 years, Israelis and hundreds of cars have crossed the Tabah crossing, heading for southern Sinai, Sharm al-Shaykh, and Cairo--something that has brought the Egyptians thousands of dollars. The Egyptian consul in Elat has claimed several times that the Egyptians find Elat expensive, and this is the reason they are not visiting it. [Report by Eytan Rabin] [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Mar 85 p 2 TA]

CORAL ISLAND VISITS DIFFICULT--Egypt is putting considerable obstacles in the way of Israelis and tourists who want to sail from Elat to Coral Island, or to anchor near it. The latest Egyptian demand is that visitors coming from Israel enter through Egyptian territory through... Sharm Al-Shaykh, where they will obtain the necessary permits. The Egyptian demand is characterized by Israeli sources as "absurd," considering the great distance which visitors from Elat would have to cover to reach Sharm al-Shaykh, all this to allow them to sail to an island which is only several kilometers away from Elat and not far from the Tabah border terminal. Egyptian officers raised the demand--that visitors to Coral Island enter Egypt via Sharm al-Shaykh--this week in a meeting with Israeli officers in the framework of the talks between the liaison units of the two countries. [Report by political correspondent Refa'el Mann] [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Mar 85 p 2 TA]

NEW GAZA DISTRICT COMMANDER--Aluf-Mishne (Colonel) Yehoshu'a Erez is to be appointed commander of the Gaza District today and be promoted to the rank of tat-aluf (brigadier general) the IDF spokesman said. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Mar 85 p 2 TA]

AL-BIRAH VIGIL; RABIN PRAISED--The friends of Zalman Abolnik are staging a vigil in his memory as of this morning at the site where he was murdered in Al-Birah's market 2 days ago. The curfew in Ramallah and Al-Birah is still in effect. Gabi Baramki, the rector of Bi'r Zayt University, has meanwhile expressed his satisfaction over the fact that the defense minister has not acquiesced to the settlers' demand that the institution be closed down. He told our correspondent Arye Gus that the university opposes acts of violence and cannot tolerate the settlers' incitement against it, which the military government must put to an end. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Apr 85 TA]

ISRAELI-YUGOSLAV DEAL SIGNED--A deal worth \$600,000 was recently signed between Kibbutz Orim in the Negev and a Yugoslav company. A company, jointly owned by the Kibbutz Industry Union and Kibbutz Orim, will set up a large system for the production of gas and liquid fertilizers in Yugoslavia. The signing of the agreement took place in Italy and the Israeli Company committed itself to setting up the system within a year. [Summary] [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Apr 85 p 19 TA]

CSO: 4400/117

JORDAN

AL-ZARQA' DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DETAILED

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Mar 85 p 8

[Text] Mr 'Azzam al-Muhaysin, the director of agriculture for al-Zarqa' district, said that last year agricultural advisers conducted 411 field trips benefiting 890 farmers. In addition, 675 farmers received reviews in the offices of agricultural advisers. Moreover, 24 meetings were held to discuss the problems facing the farmers. The activities of the advisers were aimed at directing the farmers toward modern scientific methods that can improve their agricultural production, and giving them the expertise to distinguish the importance of using the appropriate crop varieties, the proper amounts and kinds of fertilizer and the kinds of fruit trees that are appropriate for their regions. In addition, they were taught to prune, graft and fight diseases by using insecticides in the proper quantities. These trips covered the areas of al-Azraq, al-Dulayl, al-Halabat, al-Sukhnah, Sayl al-Zarqa', al-Hashimiyah, Ghabisa, Sahil al-Ziyab, al-Tafih and the villages of Nahiyat Birayn. The agricultural advisers also participated in the activities of the Directorate of Agriculture's committees, such as the High Altitude Land Improvement Project Committee, the Poultry, Cattle and Sheep Farm Licensing Committee and the Agricultural Vehicle Licensing Committee--during the past year, 27 vehicles were licensed. In addition, they participated in the public safety committees and followed up agricultural decisions made concerning Sayl al-Zarqa' by bringing violators to the authorities to destroy various crops. They also monitored the pruning and grafting of fruit trees in the various districts with the goal of educating the farmers in the correct procedures to conduct these operations.

Production and Services

Concerning production and services, Mr al-Muhaysin said that the Agriculture Directorate monitored the application of the agriculture law in nurseries, shops that sell decorative plants and shops that sell agricultural supplies. The Directorate renewed licenses for four shops that sell agricultural (chemical) treatments and two nurseries for decorative plants. It denied licenses to six decorative plant shops for not adhering to the agriculture law and caught three plant treatment shops in violation for not having the required agricultural expertise in these shops. The directorate renewed the licenses for 12 decorative plant shops, closed 4 shops and renewed licenses for 5 other shops. The Production Department irrigated 3,918 dunams of vegetables and home gardens. The department spent 383 hours of work on this

irrigating, which is roughly equivalent to 383.5 dinars. Over 200 farmers were granted permits to purchase agricultural treatments. In addition, the department participated on the Olive Evaluation Committee. Olive production was estimated at 1,727 tons of olives and 2,080 tons of oil. Technicians pruned nearly 2,000 fruit trees of various kinds, grafted nearly 3,000 fruit trees and gathered 10,000 pomegranates. In addition, seedlings were distributed to the farmers, including 5,200 olive trees, 1,000 grapevines and 900 pomegranates. The Production Department also made 96 field trips, benefiting 370 farmers. The goal of these trips was to check out home gardens, vegetable farms and fruit orchards, to stimulate the workers and to offer advice and guidance on caring for crops in terms of irrigation, grafting, pruning, fertilizing and controlling insects. The Production Department also conducted field trips to the Sayl al-Zarqa' region to implement preventive measures in the areas of public health and safety.

Diseases

Concerning the most serious diseases that appeared in the district during the past year, Mr al-Muhaysin said, "The insects that harmed crops included the olive branch worm, olive fruit fly, fig mites, grain mites, pomegranate worms, various kinds of aphids, various kinds of spiders, boll weevils, borers, agrotis ypsilon, and tomato and cabbage worms. Some diseases included early and late scorching, tomato leaf rot, various kinds of gummosis, brown spot, grain bleaching, (sklurofin) diseases and eggplant wilt."

Land Improvement

Concerning the High Altitude Land Improvement Project, Mr al-Muhaysin said that 3,257 dunums are encompassed in the activities of the overall project. There are 137 projects that have achieved record production in the regions of Birayn, Sarrut, al-'Aluk, Umm Rummanah, al-Kamshah, Bal'ama and al-Qaniyah. These records were as follows: 170 dunums of terraced land, 338 dunums of (jarraduniyah) lines, 324 plowed dunums, 1,055 separated and leveled dunums, 10 dunums of wells and ponds, 22,000 dunums cleared and 27,181 meters of fence erected.

Concerning farm roads, al-Muhaysin said that six roads were completed in the district: the Birayn - al-Khallah road, the Sarrut - al-Hawaya - al-Qarin road, the al-'Aluk - al-Haddadah road, the Birayn - al-Jabal - Sarrut - Haddad road, the Rujm al-Shawk - Rujm Jum'an road, Umm-al-Salih, al-Sukhnah, the al-'Aluk - al-Muhammar road and the al-'Aluk - al-Wasiyah road.

Concerning the amounts of rainfall, he said that during the past year they were as follows in millimeters: al-Zarqa'--93.7, al-Rasifah--124, al-Masfah--80.1, al-Sukhnah--122.5, Birayn--328.7 and al-Dulayl--97.4.

There were far fewer heavy rains this year compared with last growing season. This accounts for the poor state of planted seeds and the decline in production in the eastern regions of the district.

12608

CSO: 4404/264

JORDAN

BRIEFS

FUEL CONSUMPTION FOR ELECTRICITY--Sources in the Jordanian Electricity Authority said that the amount of fuel consumed for electricity generation in the kingdom during 1984 totaled about 605,622 tons of heavy fuel, compared with 497,970 tons in 1983, representing a growth rate of 21.8 percent. The sources added that the amount of diesel fuel consumed for electricity generation during 1984 totaled 28,588 tons, compared with 43,340 tons for 1983, representing a negative growth rate of 34.2 percent. [Text] [Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Mar 85 p 3]

12608

CSO: 4404/264

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

UNRWA CUTBACKS SAID AIMED AT DESTROYING PALESTINIAN CAUSE

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Mar 85 p 26

[Editorial by Mustafa Darwish: "Role of UNRWA in Eliminating Cause"]

[Text] At a time when acts aimed at eliminating the Palestinian cause are increasing from the Zionists and the Americans--intensification of settlements and attacks against the cultural and nationalist activities in the West Bank universities to the point that these universities are being closed and declared military areas, and at a time when Zionist policy itself is aimed at ignoring the Palestinian people and the PLO in any political solution, at precisely the same time, acts of de facto elimination are being conducted by the UNRWA in tandem with what is being done by the Zionist enemy.

In addition to the acts of harassment, the cessation of the provision of supplies and the cessation of a large proportion of educational, health and social services in the refugee camps in the host Arab countries--all of which the Arab press has dealt with, UNRWA's general commissioner's instructions to his deputy in the occupied territories call for the closure of the agency's three institutes in the West Bank. These are the Dar al-Mu'allimat (Female Teachers' House) in al-Tayrah, west of Ramallah, Dar al-Mu'allimin (Male Teachers' House) in Ramallah and the Center for Vocational Teaching in Qalandiyah. The excuse is that these institutes rely on aid from Sweden and this country has suspended its financial and moral support to these institutes. The UNRWA general commissioner has also requested that his employees in the West Bank provide a list, or lists, of the employees with whom he will dispense. He stated that their numbers must be no less than 150 teachers, male and female. He also imposed several other restrictions on UNRWA employees in the West Bank.

Of course, the reaction was rejection and distress over these measures. A general conference called for by various groups of refugees will be held in the West Bank to respond to this policy of elimination that is being implemented by the agency. It is a policy that corresponds with the Zionist plans to eliminate the Palestinian people's cause and to hide the victim of this crime of elimination--the Palestinian people.

The presence of the agency itself and the maximum services it extended only provided the minimum of the refugees' needs. However, this presence was the

practical testament and international acknowledgment of their rights and their identity until their issue is settled. The agency continues to execute its plans for elimination, and neither the reactions of the employees nor the refugee conferences nor the distress and condemnation are doing any good. The only practical measure that can induce the leadership of the agency to stop these schemes for elimination is for the Arab states hosting the refugees to intervene with the states participating in the funding of the agency in order to block the way and nullify the excuse of lack of financing used by the agency. In addition, the host Arab states must contact the leadership of the agency and discuss the subject on the political level, rather than being satisfied with the protests of the employees. These steps must be taken since the reasons behind the agency's actions have not yet been eliminated.

12608

CSO: 4404/264

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

UNRWA CUTBACKS DEEMED POLITICAL PLOY

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Mar 85 p 6

[Editorial by Fahd al-Fanik: "UNRWA: Dubious Cutbacks"]

[Text] After 35 years of work in the field of aiding and providing work for refugees who are the victims of UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, the management of the agency is cutting back its activities under the pretext of the unavailability of allocated funds. This is a common excuse that we have heard year after year.

The fact is that the shortage of funds has always been the case, but it has not prevented the agency from continuing its work and pressuring various states and international organizations to arrange for more money to fill the gap. This time, however, it has decided that the shortfall cannot be compensated for and that the only solution is to cut back activities in preparation for closure and withdrawal from the region.

What grabs one's attention is that the agency's cutbacks in its activities are aimed first at Jordan and second at the West Bank, but Syria, Lebanon and Gaza have not experienced any reductions.

This reduction comes at a time when Jordan's income from Arab and foreign aid has dropped. This has limited its ability to compensate for the agency's cutbacks in the fields of education, health and various other services.

The agency pleads that the rising price of the U.S. dollar has increased its deficit, although most of its expenditures are paid in local currencies and not in dollars. In fact, to the contrary, the most important contributors, such as the United States and Saudi Arabia, pay their shares in strong dollars.

We looked at the agency's annual report for the year ending 30 June 1984 and we found it to be a collection of cryptic words and riddles, so that not even an analyst could put his finger on the truth of the problem of which the agency complains.

The report does not clearly specify the salaries and cost of international employees, and it does not specify the relative size of their salaries to the

total salaries paid to local workers whom the agency wants to reduce and dismiss at a time when we have begun to suffer from unemployment.

The cutbacks are not justified and the necessary funds could be collected if the agency's intentions were sincere, but the features of the conspiracy are clear at this time and place. The goal is to hurt Jordan economically and socially, and to pressure it at a time when it is passing through difficult circumstances.

12608

CSO: 4404/264

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

IRANIAN TRADE EXHIBITION OPENS IN DUBAI

GF021136 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 2 Apr 85 p 13

[Text] The first trade exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran was opened yesterday by Shaykh Hashir Maktum, director of information, Dubai, at the International Trade Center.

Iran's Deputy Minister for Commerce Khosrow Taj and members of the diplomatic corps were among the dignitaries at the inaugural ceremony.

From farm-produced caviar to handmade carpets, the exhibition has on display a wide variety of consumer items and some heavy industrial goods from Iran. The product range includes canned foodstuff, dry fruits, pulses, detergents, television sets, refrigerators, cooking ranges, clocks, kitchenware, carpets, handicrafts, garments and furniture. The industrial products include pump sets and trucks and buses built in collaboration with Mercedes Benz.

S.M. Salili, vice-president of the Export Promotion Center of Iran (ECPI), which has organised the fair, told KHALEEJ TIMES that this was the biggest trade fair organised abroad by the center.

A total of 243 Iranian companies, 168 of them from the private sector, are taking part in the 10-day show which covers 6,000 square metres of exhibition area.

Mr Salili said there were altogether 1,680 products on display for trade enquiries, but most of these goods were also available for retail sales. He said the quality of the products would compete well with any other on the international market and prices would also be competitive. Retail prices of consumer goods were controlled in Iran and they would be fixed at the fair too, he said.

The show will be open for trade buyers in the morning, and for the general public in the evening when Dh 10 entrance fee will be charged.

Mr Salili said his country attached great importance to reestablishing trade relations with other Islamic countries, specially with the UAE, one of its closest neighbours. Particularly for Dubai, he said, Iran was in a position to meet its entire requirements of agricultural products which it imported from far-off countries. "Since we are so close by, we can offer fresh fruits and vegetables at far more competitive prices," he said.

One major item of which Iran is said to be a leading manufacturer is melamine which is being displayed prominently at the fair by eight leading companies.

Yet another major product is Iranian minerals. A spokesman of Iran's Ministry of Mineral Wealth said his country was hoping to receive positive response for its non-metallic minerals like stones, marbles, onyx etc.

Mr Salili said that on the first day of the fair two exhibitors had signed large contracts for exporting certain chemicals and foodstuffs to Dubai. He said he was expecting to handle trade transaction worth \$1 million at the fair.

The Iranian Government, he said, was also planning to open a trade center in Dubai.

CSO: 4400/118

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

UAE EXPORTS, IMPORTS--Dubayy, 24 March (WAM)--UAE imports through Dubai ports during 1984 totaled 5,038,301,000 kg whose value totaled 17.225 billion dirhams. Topping the list of imports were manufactured goods, followed by machinery, automobiles, and equipment. Then came miscellaneous merchandise, followed by food-stuffs and live animals. UAE exports through Dubai ports during the same period totaled 796,541,000 kg whose value totaled 1,796,821 million dirhams. Exports included manufactured goods, fuel, and chemicals. [Summary] [Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1725 GMT 24 Mar 85 GF]

ABU DHABI FACES DEFICIT--Abu Dhabi, 31 March (QNA)--It was reported here today that the Abu Dhabi Emirate is suffering from a financial deficit which has been accumulating since last year, totalling 1.5 billion dirhams, and that this amount has been borrowed from Abu Dhabi National Bank at the local market current interest rate. In a statement to the Abu Dhabi-based newspaper, AL-ITTIHAD, published today, Muhammad al-Habrush, director of the Abu Dhabi Financial Department, said that the emirate's budget for this year will be the same as last year, with a deficit which will be disclosed when the budget is issued. The deficit will be covered by Abu Dhabi Bank. It is ready to be issued when the UAE federal budget is scheduled to be issued in January. Al-Habrush said: We hope this year will be better economically than last year. There are indications of a stable international oil market this year, he said. He noted that the UAE federal and local budgets depend mainly on oil. [Excerpt] [Doha QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 31 Mar 85 GF]

NEW OIL WELL--Dubayy, 1 April (QNA)--Sources from the petroleum directorate in Dubai Emirate have announced that a new oil well has been drilled by the British Petroleum Company at the coast of Dubai. The well was named Albarq. [Excerpt] [Doha QNA in Arabic 1820 GMT 1 Apr 85 GF]

ABU DHABI POPULATION DECREASE--Abu Dhabi, 1 April (WAKH)--Population in the emirate of Abu Dhabi was 509 thousand at the end of 1984 compared to 520 thousand in 1982, according to the Planning Department here. The decrease in population was attributed to the government's policy in regard to the decrease of foreign manpower and restriction of entry visas to solve problems arising from international economic recession and reduced oil prices. According to the economic report of the department, the population of the emirate constituted 43.5 percent of that of the whole country estimated to have reached 1,169 million by the end of 1984. The report noted that in 1982 the population of the emirate reached

520 thousand, an increase in 1983 reaching 520.7 thousand. In 1984, there were 509 thousand people, a decrease of 2.3 percent compared to 1983. The report pointed out that the decrease in the number of expatriates was accompanied by an increase of 4 percent in the population of citizens. Citizens of the emirate reached 110 thousand in 1982, went up to 114.5 thousand in 1983 and 119.1 thousand in 1984. [Text] [Manama WAKH in English 1535 GMT 1 Apr 85 GF]

CSO: 4400/118

INDIA

FACTORS IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS EXAMINED

U.S. Support of Pakistan

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 23 Feb 85 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

President Ronald Reagan's proposal for a record security aid of more than \$650 million to Pakistan in fiscal year 1986 is proof, if proof were needed, of the fact that recent developments in India have not made the US reexamine at all its longstanding commitment to our western neighbour. Those who believed otherwise would find it difficult to square this proposal with the avowed US desire to open a new chapter in its relations with India. The disappointment is that this comes at a time when the US government and media are viewing Mr Rajiv Gandhi's assumption of power as a heaven-sent opportunity to bring about a basic change in Washington's ties with New Delhi. A wrong note was struck right from Jawaharlal Nehru's taking over of the reigns of power and this continued up to the end of Mrs Gandhi's rule, barring the brief thaws during the Kennedy and Carter administrations' tenure. The reasons for this lack of trust and warmth in relations have varied from time to time, with India remaining consistent in its commitment to nonalignment and the US in its unabashed military association with Islamabad.

But once, Indira Gandhi was removed from the scene, a whole new world of possibilities opened up for those manning the India desk in the US state department. US mediamen have been quite helpful in this respect, portraying Mr Rajiv Gandhi as young, forward-looking and with a weakness for technology and modern management practices. The thinking in the US, buttressed by comments from touring Congressmen, has been that if Mr Gandhi is indeed the Deng Xiaoping of Indian change, then he is bound to open up to the US—in more senses than one. And yet, the far from even feigning to distance itself from the military government of Gen. Zia-ul-Haq in an attempt to capitalise on the change, the Reagan administration has sought to increase the level of its military aid to Islamabad. Mr Gandhi, on his part, has made it clear that more US arms for Pakistan will only adversely affect New Delhi's relations with Washington.

The fact of the matter is that owing to a variety of security reasons, not the least of which is the need to maintain listening and staging posts in this part of the globe, the US continues its more than three decade old military association with Pakistan. Thus an important opportunity of improving Indo-US ties appears to have been lost, out of the inability to give up an old habit of thought and the unwillingness to restructure ties in a new situation. Such an opportunity may not present itself again soon as the internal Indian situation may change. Right now the Indian leftists are down, and it is they who raise their hackles the most everytime Indo-US ties show an upbeat trend. By the time the US is ready to re-examine things—assuming that will happen some day—the left establishment in India may be strong enough again to put a spanner in the works.

Scope for Shift

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 25 Feb 85 p 8

[Article by Jyotirmoy Banerjee]

[Text]

MR Rajiv Gandhi's comments following his stunning election victory suggest continuity of India's non-aligned policy. However, there may be a gradual shift in the nuances.

Though Indira Gandhi had reiterated the importance of "socialism" at the Congress(I) session in Calcutta as late as December 1983, her son dropped the word from his maiden speech of January 5, even though he spoke not only as Prime Minister but also as party president and Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement. Further, he visualized an enhanced role for the private sector and the pruning of the public sector, his emphasis being on results rather than procedures. Among the portfolios he has reserved for himself are External Affairs and Science and Technology. Western media interpret these facts as being conducive to better relations.

The Reagan Administration has also shown an apparent interest in Mr Gandhi's takeover in New Delhi. Several prominent former U.S. Ambassadors to India accompanied the Secretary for State, Mr George Shultz, to Indira Gandhi's funeral. Even though the presidential elections were only days away, Mr Reagan did not neglect to send an invitation to Mr Gandhi, which the latter promptly accepted. More

recently Senator Percy and Senator Prassler visited Delhi. Mr Percy handed over to Mr Gandhi a congratulatory letter from President Reagan. Senator Lugar, the new chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, put his optimism about the future of Indo-U.S. relations on record. And if there was an official angle to Mr Henry Kissinger's recent talks with Mr Gandhi, nobody would be surprised.

Multifaceted

In Mr Gandhi's own words, Indo-U.S. relations are "multifaceted". First, in terms of cooperation in trade and commerce, science, technology and culture, relations have been improving since Indira Gandhi's comeback to power in 1980 and Mr Gandhi's conversion from pilot to politician. The USA for years has been India's largest trade partner. The scope for exports remains enormous since India's share of total U.S. imports hovers around just 1%. Besides, a joint "blue ribbon" panel of scientists has been set up and the joint commission reactivated to boost cooperation in various spheres. Simultaneously the Joint Business Council and the Organization of Private Investment Corporation have been active in encouraging bilateral private sector tie-ups.

The Reagan Administration has shown sustained interest in a dialogue with New Delhi over the past four years. Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, came in 1981, followed by Mr Shultz in 1983 and again during Mrs Gandhi's funeral, and Vice-President George Bush in mid-1984. Indira Gandhi herself had three summits with President Reagan marked by surprising cordiality at Cancun in 1981, in Washington in July 1983 and again later that year at the U.N. Headquarters. In terms of sheer public relations and red-carpet treatment, her Washington visit was a glittering success.

But behind the Reagan Administration's neon smile were the gritted teeth of conservatism. While the White House swiftly cleared the problem of nuclear fuel supply to Tarapur, all Mrs Gandhi's charm and charisma could not move it one bit on other, more central issues. Washington did not yield, despite repeated pleas from her, on its determination to cut back the U.S. contribution to the soft-loan IDA and "promote" a reluctant India to other hard-loan windows. Nor did the White House ease up on the decision to supply advanced arms to Pakistan or its de facto reluctance to com-

ply with India's own desire for major arms purchases from the USA.

The issue of U.S. arms supply to the subcontinent constitutes by far the most significant aspect of Indo-U.S. relations. The revival of Washington's interest since 1979 in security cooperation with Pakistan followed the collapse of its ally, the Shah regime in Iran, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The Soviet action brought the Straits of Hormuz, seen as the West's jugular in the oil-rich Persian Gulf, within easy reach (400 miles) of the Soviet tactical air force.

The two events magnified the Pentagon's fears. The former President, Mr Jimmy Carter, declared in January 1980 that the Gulf lay within America's vital sphere of interest. His Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force, set up to safeguard the West's sea lines of communication with the Gulf, was upgraded to an independent Central Command after Mr Reagan had succeeded him. Pakistan's importance for the Pentagon and National Security Council hardliners lies in its role in the CENTCOM'S strategy. No amount of dissenting noise will change that scenario, unless a revolution breaks out in Pakistan or the oil in the Gulf dries up.

Is there a compelling reason why India should allow its political relations with the USA to sour over Pakistan? Must India continue to brood over U.S. arms supply? After all, New Delhi has been doing its defence homework throughout. India's defence establishment is one of the largest in the Third World. Its self-reliance in defence is a tribute to the country's impressive industrial prowess. New Delhi's Moscow connexion has yielded rich dividends in terms of the latest Soviet arsenal, including later-generation MIGs and T-80 tanks along with the licence to produce them. West Europeans, notably France and Britain, have also been filling India's defence needs.

The dazzle of Pakistan's U.S.-supplied F-16s and Harpoon missiles should not blind us to the fact that Pakistan had NATO-

model weapons in the past. But neither its F-104 Starfighters and Sabres nor its Patton tanks could overwhelm the primitive Indian Gnats and outdated Centurion tanks in the 1965 war. India's defence-preparedness has undergone a major change in the intervening 20 years. Pakistan, on the other hand, has drastically shrunk in size after 1971 and lost the ability to keep India busy on two flanks. It is sandwiched between 100,000 heavily-armed Soviet troops based in Afghanistan and an equally formidable Indian force in the east.

India under Mr Gandhi can now afford to retrieve the no-war pact and the friendship treaty. An Indo-Pakistani agreement on non-aggression will remove a major irritant in New Delhi's relations with both Islamabad and Washington. This would entail a toning down of criticism of U.S.-Pakistani security relationship. Mr Gandhi seems more suited to dispense with superfluous verbosity than his mother. There is something unseemly about loudly branding one superpower the devil, and then approaching it for an increase in its IDA contribution. Mr Gandhi has a comfortable mandate and can do without baiting the USA and Pakistan. In return, Washington should be more even-handed in its arms sales and licensing policy towards India. In certain high-technology areas, only the USA can meet India's needs, some of which are created by its arms supply to Pakistan.

Washington finds excuses in terms of its maze of rules, bureaucracy and Congress when it does not want to carry through a major policy move like arms sales to India. But it demonstrated its ability to cut through these obstacles while granting the \$3.2 billion aid package to Pakistan despite the latter's suspect nuclear and narcotics-related activities. A major reason why the billion-dollar Indo-U.S. arms deal never came off over the past few years was the irrational conditions surrounding U.S. arms sales. The USA would retain the right to uncertain delivery schedules and no money-

back guarantee in case of failed delivery and, of course, the outright denial to grant licences for arms production. The paradox here is that the Pentagon fears leakage to Russians of any high technology which it may supply to India. Its reluctance leaves a vacuum in India's defence needs, which Moscow fills cheerfully. This in turn confirms the Pentagon's suspicion of close Indo-Soviet military ties.

Good Omen

The test of U.S. sincerity will hinge largely on whether the State Department under Mr Shultz is able to shape South Asia policy more than Mr Caspar Weinberger's Defence Department. Mr Robert McFarlane's National Security Council seems to be working closely with the State Department, which is a good omen. The Russians are going to get U.S. technology from West Europe anyway. An even-handed U.S. arms policy towards the subcontinent would seem to tally with the Reagan Administration's security and ideological interests in correcting the mistake of allowing Moscow to enter the Indian military scene by default. Pakistan cannot legitimately object to a significant Indo-U.S. arms deal if India meanwhile signs a non-aggression pact with it—and in view of the 1981 Indo-Pakistani understanding that each side has the right to acquire arms. Another indicator of U.S. attitude will be whether Washington expels people like Jagjit Singh Chauhan.

Mr Gandhi's victory revealed that 60% of India's electorate are below 40 years in age. The hard core of this section consists of urban middle-class professionals looking ahead to the country's stride into the 21st Century. The USA can be of enormous help to India's transition to a "technetronic" era. Even China has realized that. Hence, it is time seriously to review worn-out ideas of both U.S. and Indian bureaucracies in the hope of mitigation, if not full resolution, of the irritants in bilateral relations.

7 May 1985

INDIA

ANALYST DISCUSSES PURPOSE OF RAO'S MOSCOW VISIT

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Mar 85 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 13.

The postponed visit of the Defence Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, to Moscow is expected to take place before the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, pays his first official visit to the Soviet Union.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to go to Moscow in May, but it would be subject to the convenience of the new Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, who might need a little more time to settle down.

Though there is no great urgency for Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit, the Government of India is quite keen that he should go to Moscow soon enough to get a clear idea of what the Soviet Union can offer by way of electronic counter-measures to meet the Hawkeye Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) that Pakistan is trying to acquire from the United States.

The Hawkeye E2-C system will enable Pakistan to track the movements of all IAF aircraft operating from forward bases upto a depth of 500 km from its borders from the moment these planes take off and land at their respective airfields, besides providing command and support services to Pakistani aircraft operating within this range.

The Soviet Union probably has some effective defence against the American-built AWACS serving as airborne command posts for the NATO air forces in Europe. If Moscow agrees to make this equipment available to India to match the Hawkeyes that the U.S. might give Pakistan, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi would be able to talk a little more toughly to the U.S. President, Mr. Reagan when he goes to Washington in June about the danger of a mounting arms race in the sub-continent.

The main purpose of the Defence Minister's Moscow visit is not to negotiate any new arms

deals but have a clear idea of what the Soviet Union could offer to meet various contingencies that might arise in the wake of the U.S. policy of giving more sophisticated weapon systems to Pakistan. Apart from discussing the collaboration arrangements for production under licence of the latest MIG series of aircraft and other weaponry including advanced versions of T-72 tanks and light combat vehicles, the Defence Minister will be having detailed exchanges with his Soviet counterpart, Marshal Sergei Sokolov, on the evolving strategic situation in the South and South-West Asian regions.

As the current Chairman of the Non-aligned movement crusading for international peace, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi would be equally interested to know from Mr. Gorbachev and his colleagues when he meets them in Moscow during his official visit about the Soviet assessment of the prospects for an understanding with the U.S. on a halt to the nuclear arms race that would have a wider impact on the world situation. In India's view, even a limited Soviet-American accord on this crucial issue would help to relax tensions in several critical areas including the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent.

It is for this reason that the Government of India continues to attach considerable importance to the impending visits of the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister to the Soviet Union. The new Soviet leadership, too, would probably welcome an early opportunity to assure India of its continued support in meeting the country's defence requirements.

The U.S. Under Secretary of State for political affairs, Mr. Michael Armacost, arrived in Delhi this afternoon after his talks in Islamabad, which were interrupted by the sudden departure of Gen. Zia-ul-Haq and his Foreign Minister, Mr. Yaqub Ali Khan, to Moscow to attend the funeral of Chernenko today. He will probably go back to Islamabad to complete his talks after concluding his visit to Delhi.

CSO: 4600/1447

INDIA

INDO-SOVIET PROTOCOL ON AVIATION INDUSTRY SIGNED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Mar 85 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 13: India and the Soviet Union have signed a working protocol on continued co-operation between the two countries in the aviation industry.

The protocol was signed at the end of the visit of a high-level Soviet delegation led by Mr. I. S. Silaev, Soviet minister for aviation industry, from March 6 to 12. Matters of mutual interest were discussed during the visit.

Mr. Silaev visited the Bangalore and Nasik factories of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. He also had a look at the facilities available at the National Aeronautical Laboratory and the Aeronautical Development Establishment at Bangalore.

UNI adds: The Soviet Union will assist India in setting up a bauxite mine and alumina complex near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh under a protocol signed by the Indo-Soviet working group on non-ferrous metallurgy at a meeting in Moscow last week.

The bauxite mine, which will have a production capacity of 2.3 million

tonnes initially, will be set up on a priority basis for export of bauxite to the USSR on compensation basis.

The pricing formula will be worked out so as to ensure the economic viability of this export-oriented project.

The Indian delegation to Moscow was led by Mr. B. K. Rao, secretary, department of mines. The Soviet side was led by Mr. I. V. Prokopov, deputy minister for non-ferrous metallurgy of USSR.

The Soviet Union agreed to consider an Indian offer to export one million tonnes of bauxite and two lakh tonnes of aluminium from the National Aluminium Company annually beginning from 1987. It is to send its response to this offer shortly.

During its meeting, the working group discussed the question of setting up a demonstration unit for energy conservation at the Korba aluminium plant with UNDP assistance and preparation of feasibility reports for gallium production and special grade alumina production at the Korba aluminium plant.

CSQ: 4600/1445

INDIA

COMMENT, INTERVIEW ON INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS

Commentary by V.D. Chopra

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Mar 85 p 4

[Article by V.D. Chopra]

[Text]

After the death of Indira Gandhi, the "time-tested friendship" between India and the Soviet Union has entered a new phase under Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, if recent developments in New Delhi and Moscow are any indication. The meeting between young new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachyov and young Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Moscow last week during the funeral of Konstantin Chernenko, though brief but breaking all protocol, symbolises the value the two leaders attach to Indo-Soviet friendship.

Almost two months ago, Rajiv Gandhi had said that the "relationship between our two countries derives strength from mutual respect and regard despite the differences in our backgrounds and social structures". He underlined that "over the years, India's friendship with the Soviet Union had grown from strong foundations into a model of international cooperation and a force for world peace".

Soon after Rajiv Gandhi was sworn in as the Prime Minister of India after the Lok Sabha elections, the Soviet Council of Ministers reiterated Soviet people's support to the Indian people's "striving to consolidate their national sovereignty and territorial integrity while increasing their role in world affairs". It said: "In the Soviet Union you are known as a firm adherent to the

course of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, to which the Indian people had convincingly reaffirmed commitment at their recent parliamentary elections."

These are not mere platitudes. They amount to a deep commitment of the leaders of the two countries—the Soviet Union, the first and biggest socialist country of the world, and India, the biggest nonaligned and self-reliant country among the developing countries of the world.

There is no doubt that India, as a nonaligned country, has been striving to build friendly relations with all countries, including the US, in the larger interests of the country and world peace. Nevertheless, both during the time of Nehru and Indira Gandhi, India's relations with the Soviet Union were treated on a different footing. This is a fact of history which cannot be erased from the minds of the people. From the day Jawaharlal Nehru unfurled the national flag on 15 August 1947 at the historic Red Fort in Delhi, to the day of his death on 27 May 1964, he built the edifice of enduring friendly relations with the Soviet Union brick by brick.

Nehru once wrote: "Socialism in the West and rising nationalisms of the Eastern countries opposed this combination of fascism and imperialism.... Inevitably, we take our stand with progressive forces of the

world which are ranged against fascism and imperialism. "It was this understanding of Nehru which brought him closer to the Soviet Union, even long before India had become independent and when several of the socialist countries had yet to come into being.

During Indira Gandhi's time, Indo-Soviet relations were raised to a qualitatively new level and this trend surfaced itself long before the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation was signed. This treaty was the consummation of this trend.

Maybe, Rajiv Gandhi had this aspect in mind when he said that over the years Indo-Soviet friendship had grown from strong foundations into a model of international cooperation. And now he is engaged in carrying forward this process, though in a different international situation.

There are some analysts who trace the "special relations" between India and the Soviet Union to certain geopolitical reasons. There are others, who delink India's relations with the Soviet Union from its struggle to "consolidate its national sovereignty and territorial integrity", and view these relations merely as projection of India's foreign policy.

Notwithstanding the attempts of these analysts to isolate Indo-Soviet relations from India's internal policies, an objective examination of facts clearly reveals that the advance of India, from a backward, semi-feudal economy to a new and decisive phase has been a logical parallel to the growth of relations with the Soviet Union. Conversely speaking, the stronger India's ties with the Soviet Union became, the more self-reliant, independent and united, it became internally.

All this shows that India's ties with the Soviet Union will continue to be a major factor as far as the defence of her independence and sovereignty and the regeneration of her economy are concerned. It is in this scenario that the progress of Indo-Soviet relations need to be seen today.

This does not mean that these relations, based as they are on equality, form a one-way traffic. Anyone

who has been closely watching Kremlin's policies ever since India became independent, would agree that the Soviet leadership has always been interested in making India economically strong and self-reliant. There is hardly any document of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union which does not emphasise the key task of strengthening India's sovereignty and integrity.

In his speech at the CPSU Central Committee after his election as the General Secretary of the Party, Mikhail Gorbachyov warned that never before such a terrible threat had loomed large over mankind as it was these days. In this context he pointed out that the only reasonable way out of the existing situation was agreement between the confronting forces on the immediate termination of the arms race, above all, nuclear arms, on earth and its prevention in space.

These new perceptions of the new Soviet leader are similar to the policy which Rajiv Gandhi recently enunciated. At the six-nation summit on nuclear disarmament at New Delhi at the beginning of this year, he urged the five nuclear power states to take the "credible and reassuring first step of freezing further production and deployment of nuclear weapons". Though the idiom of the two leaders is different, its content and thrust is the same. It is the common perception to save our planet from a nuclear disaster that brings them together and has generated a new type of affinity between the two—an affinity flowing more from a high-minded philosophy than political expediency.

That apart, both the leaders have something more in common. Both of them belong to the younger generation of the leadership in their countries. If Mikhail Gorbachyov entered the political arena after the October Revolution, he received his political baptism when the Soviet Union was engaged in rebuilding its war ravaged economy. He, therefore, has the rich experience of reconstructing the socialist structures in a different historical situation. Rajiv Gandhi, too, belongs to that generation of Indians who did not

participate in the national movement for freedom, but have a living experience of building a strong and self-reliant India.

In this sense it will not be incorrect to say that the biggest socialist country today is being led by the youngest communist leader of the world, and the biggest nonaligned country is under the stewardship of the youngest leader of the world. Though this is a subjective factor, it is significant in the sense that both of them have direct experience and feel of the aspirations of the younger generation of the world—a generation which constitutes the overwhelming majority of the population on our planet. Maybe, this factor helps them to see reality more concretely and more graphically.

The commonality between the new Soviet and Indian leadership apart, it has to be admitted that a new man is being created in the socialist society and is being moulded to take his rightful place in the advanced stage of socialism in the Soviet Union. In India, too, a different man is coming into being with the socio-economic changes in the country. The rich experience of friendly relations between the two countries, notwithstanding the twists and turns in events at home and abroad, has brought their people closer to each other and deepened their understanding of each other, on the whole. The potentialities of further strengthening politico-economic relations between the two countries have enormously increased, thanks to the policies of the Soviet leaders, on the one hand, and those of Nehru and Indira Gandhi, on the other.

There is another aspect which opens up new possibilities of further strengthening the relations between the two countries. One of the top priorities of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachyov, as he himself has put it, is the speeding up of the country's social and economic development and the improvement of all aspects of life of the society.

"The point at issue is also the development of the individual, qualitative development of the material conditions of his life and work, of his spiritual make-up. We are to achieve a decisive turn in transfer-

ring the national development to the tracks of intensive development and attain within the briefest period the most advanced scientific and technical positions, the *highest world level*, in the productivity of social labour," he underlined.

Indian leaders too have more or less set the same target before themselves, though the courses which the two countries are following are different as their social systems are different. In spite of this basic divergence, both the countries can learn from each others' experience.

As far as India's direction of socio-economic development is concerned, these objectives of the Soviet Union are very important. In the urge to modernise India's economy and to transform its socio-economic

structures, a search for new models has begun. There is also a trend which expects that the Western capitalist countries, US in particular, could help us in modernising our economy. This trend is identical to the one which surfaced in the fifties when Nehru was trying to build basic and heavy industries. But Nehru's bitter experience with the Western countries is too well known.

Nonetheless, if the Soviet Union achieves its targets and there is no reason to believe that it will not, even in the field of the most sophisticated technology, it will open an entirely new option for us. That could be why some of the economic aides of the Prime Minister have suggested that the country should get the most sophisticated technol-

ogy from any source available, subject to the condition that it does not impinge on our sovereignty.

It is in this backdrop that personal equations between the Soviet and Indian leaders need to be seen. Therefore, Rajiv Gandhi's next visit to the Soviet Union will not only deepen this relationship but also create objective conditions for expanding it. Western analysts had this perspective in mind when they highlighted the special honour which was accorded to Rajiv Gandhi in Moscow. After the major leaders of the Communist world, it was he who first met the new General Secretary of the CPSU, and rightly so, because as the leader of peace-loving India, he holds an enviable position in the world community today.

Interview With Leonid Zamyatin

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Mar 85 p 4

[Interview with Leonid Zamyatin, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Soviet Union and head of its International Information Department, by P. Roychoudhury]

[Text]

Question : India's new leadership is determined to follow the non-aligned policy it inherited from Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. This March marks the second anniversary of the 7th non-aligned forum in Delhi. How does the Soviet Union assess India's role in this movement and the role of the movement itself in the context of the present tense international situation?

Answer : I have been to India and seen how it implements the ideas of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of your country. His views and progressive outlook exercised a considerable influence on the evolution of the nonaligned movement which is today a major positive factor of international life.

Nehru's cause was taken up by Indira Gandhi, who devoted her entire life to the promotion of the movement's principles and traditions, and to strengthening its anti-

imperialist character. Her chairmanship, a post of great honour, was a recognition of her country's tremendous contribution to the efforts to ensure universal peace and the security of the peoples.

The Soviet Union appreciates and values what India as a great Asian power and nonaligned leader did to add to the common efforts to improve the international situation, because the goals pursued by India as the movement's chairman and by the nonaligned movement as a whole are near and understandable to the Soviet people. This country invariably sides with world peace forces in strengthening international security.

You surely remember the conditions in which the 7th non-aligned forum met in Delhi. It was at the time of a sharp aggravation of the international situation when the US administration openly embarked on a policy of subverting de-

tente, of destroying all that had been achieved in the way of curbing the arms race, when the imperialist powers stepped up their interference in the internal affairs of the nonaligned countries.

Since then the arms race has solidified on still further. The US and its close NATO allies are now talking of extending their military activities to outer space. It need not be stressed what tragic consequences this spells for mankind.

The two years that have elapsed since the Delhi forum, have seen quite a few examples showing that the "crusade" proclaimed by imperialism against socialism is directed also against all progressive trends in the world, against national liberation movements, against genuine decolonisation of the nonaligned Asian, African and Latin American countries.

Recall the invasion of Grenada, the occupation of Lebanon, the un-

declared war against Nicaragua, the outrages in the south of Africa. This is the "crusade" in action. These countries fell victim to it only because their system of government and way of life did not match the American pattern of "democracy", which is enough for Washington to justify its military interference.

In Asia, imperialism is declaring ever new areas as belonging to its sphere of "vital interests", such as the Far East, the Pacific and Indian Oceans. In extending its military cooperation with Japan and South Korea, the US seeks to set up a sort of NATO branch in the East.

It is also in the context of these factors that one should look at Washington's policy of conniving at Islamabad's military ambitions. The substance of this policy is to convert Pakistan into a tool of US expansionism.

The world, including the Soviet Union, has evaluated highly Indira Gandhi's foreign policy steps aimed at curbing the arms race, primarily in nuclear missile weapons, averting the threat of a thermonuclear war and stamping out flash points on this planet, especially in the Middle East, Southern Africa and Central America.

The world estimates highly the fact that the cause of the great daughter of the Indian people is being continued by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who is everywhere known as a firm adherent of the Jawaharlal Nehru-Indira Gandhi line. Evidence of that is the recent meeting of the six in Delhi, chaired by Rajiv Gandhi. Its participants went on record in favour of improving the international situation, ending the arms race, ensuring a peaceful outer space and removing nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.

The solution of these problems requires joint efforts by the socialist and nonaligned countries, by all progressive forces. They are partners and colleagues in defending the rights of the nations and the peaceful future of humanity. We will develop and strengthen our friendship with them.

Experience shows that joint moves by the USSR and India, as well as other socialist and nonaligned countries, on a number of acute international problems in the

past have borne tangible fruit and helped to defuse explosive situations. The Soviet Union believes that this practice will continue.

We are in favour of expanding our cooperation with India, of promoting and deepening the diverse Soviet-Indian ties on the firm foundation of the Soviet-Indian Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, which serves well the interests of both countries, and the cause of peace in Asia and the world.

The Soviet people rejoice in the achievements of the Indian people and wish them new accomplishments in all spheres of material and cultural life, in upholding the Republic's independent foreign policy line. They fully support the efforts by the people and government of India to strengthen the country's unity and territorial integrity.

Question : New Soviet-American negotiations in Geneva opened at the time of the second anniversary of the 7th nonaligned conference. Are you optimistic about their positive outcome? If they fail, don't you think this will worsen the international political climate further? How would you comment on this?

Answer : The heightened interest in the Geneva talks is easy to explain. Their results will decide whether the world will pursue the arms race more rapidly and the danger of war increases, or reason will prevail.

The Soviet Union does not seek any unilateral advantages or military superiority over the United States and NATO countries. We uphold the principle of equality and equal security. We want the arms race to end, not to continue; we want real cuts in armaments, not the development of ever-new weapon systems, be it in space or on earth, whether offensive or defensive. Our aim is to abolish all nuclear weapons everywhere in the world, to eliminate the threat of nuclear war altogether.

Unfortunately, this cannot be said of the United States, which will largely determine the course of negotiations in Geneva. The fact is that on the eve of the meeting it was the American mass information media that circulated bleak forecasts all over the world.

US officials say that they will continue to carry on their plans to militarise space. For the sake of camouflage, they declare that it is only research work. But what sort of work, one may wonder? The answer is one—to develop allegedly defensive weapons, whether nuclear, laser-based, or other, for deployment in space. If we take off the veil, it will become obvious that this means a new spiral in the arms race.

It should be made clear that the Soviet Union will never agree to the superiority of the US. For success in this field it is absolutely necessary to examine and decide matters related to space and nuclear armaments as one complex in their interconnection.

Judging from your question, the Indian public, as well as the Soviet, American and other peoples, are anxious to know what happens if the negotiations in Geneva end in failure.

I can only confirm once again that the Soviet Union takes a very sober view of such a prospect and is doing whatever it can to prevent it from becoming a reality. The Soviet leadership does not share the forecasts dooming the talks to a fiasco. The Soviet Union will work for tangible and practical results.

Question : What do you think are the chances of settling the so-called "Afghan issue" politically? Do you see any evidence of change in Islamabad's approach to the "Afghan question" and in its policy in South West and South Asia in general?

Answer : The Soviet point of view on this matter has not changed: There is no other way of settling the "Afghan problem" except political. Such is also the fundamental stand of the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which is supported by many states, India included.

Unfortunately, there are imperialist forces hampering such a just settlement. For reaching agreement, the Afghan side has repeatedly called upon its neighbouring countries of Pakistan and Iran to sit down at the negotiating table and discuss the existing problems with a view to arrive at bilateral arrangements capable of normalising the situation in the region.

It was twice—on 14 May 1980 and on 24 August 1981—that the Afghan government came forward with peaceful initiatives to settle the situation around Afghanistan. The second of these documents took into account the wishes of the Pakistani side and displayed a flexible approach, opening the way to mutually acceptable agreement.

The only positive result along this path was the beginning of Afghan-Pakistani negotiations in Geneva, attended by Diego Cordovez, a representative of the UN Secretary-General. Three rounds of such talks have been held in the Palais des Nations since June 1982, with their continuation scheduled for last February. The Pakistani side, however, pleading elections, proposed moving them to May.

If we analyse the course of the negotiations held, we will see that both the Afghan and Soviet sides assess them as steps in the right direction. But one cannot help noticing that whenever the negotiating side showed signs of moving closer to each other and positive shifts became evident, the United States did its utmost to prevent them from occurring, and Pakistan reverted to its initial stand.

In dealing with the "Afghan issue" or rather with the striving by the US and some other powers not to allow a democratic republic to exist in Afghanistan, it should be remembered that the US administration is for a continuation of the un-

declared war against Afghanistan. It does not want an agreement between the two neighbouring countries. As for Islamabad's position, it is serving US interests. Pakistan has been converted into a base for military operations against Afghanistan. Within a short period of time it found itself involved in the US global strategic orbit and in the role of the US chief ally in South West Asia.

The large appropriations to rearm the Pakistani army, its equipment with up-to-date weapons, and involvement of US, NATO allies in the massive militarisation of the country, have achieved their ends.

As far as the US is concerned, the Reagan administration intends to wage the war against Afghanistan to the last Afghan, as it says. In March 1981, the head of the White House, discarding any camouflage, declared openly his support for Afghan counter-revolution and described bandits and agents smuggled into Afghanistan as "freedom fighters". Since then the CIA has been carrying out in Afghanistan its biggest ever operation, which has already cost it more than a billion dollars.

It is common knowledge that not only Afghans trained in special camps on Pakistani territory but also regular units of the Pakistani army are used in military operations against Afghanistan. This is the answer to your question about the chances of a political settlement of the "Afghan issue".

INDIA

RAJIV, YUGOSLAV PRIME MINISTER DISCUSS NONALIGNED DIRECTION

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Mar 85 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 18.

The Prime Ministers of India and Yugoslavia, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mrs. Milka Planinc, discussed today the current role and responsibilities of the Non-aligned Movement before the Coordination Bureau meets at the ministerial level in Delhi next month to review the African situation.

A reference was made during these talks to the latest escalation of the Iran-Iraq war and the need for a fresh non-aligned effort to end it. The Prime Minister told Mrs. Planinc that he has deputed two senior Indian officials—Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran and Dr. J. S. Teja, both Secretaries in the Ministry of External Affairs—to Baghdad and Teheran with personal messages to the Iraqi and Iranian Presidents.

The Yugoslav Prime Minister arrived here today on a day's visit on her way back to Belgrade from a tour of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand for talks with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi in response to an invitation extended to her by Indira Gandhi last year.

As founder members of NAM, both India and Yugoslavia are keen that all possible steps should be taken by the community to highlight the movement in the preservation of world peace, promotion of international understanding and establishment of an equitable international economic order to ensure the development of poorer nations.

The ministerial meeting of the Coordination Bureau has been called to intensify NAM's crusade for the liberation of Namibia from South African occupation, focus attention on the flagrant violation of the U.N. resolutions on the subject by the racist regime and reiterate the solidarity of the Non-aligned community with the Namibian people. But it will also deal with the current economic crisis in Africa that

has led to widespread famine in this vast continent with a view to sharing ideas on what the Non-aligned community could do or should do to mitigate the suffering of its people.

SWAPO chief coming: The leader of the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), Mr. Sam Nujoma, is arriving in Delhi on March 26 from Beijing to discuss Namibian situation. As head of one of the three southern African liberation movements recognised by the U.N. he has an official status and is accorded all courtesies due to a *de facto* head of government, by many countries.

Mr. Nujoma was on a goodwill visit to China when the Soviet leader, Mr. Konstantin Chernenko, died last week. He flew to Moscow to attend the funeral and returned to Beijing to complete his China visit. He is stopping over in Delhi for talks with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and other leaders to express his gratitude to India for its active support to the southern African liberation movements and discuss what the Non-aligned community could do to mobilise world opinion in favour of Namibian independence.

Relief supplies to Africa: Senior officials of the Non-aligned countries will meet on April 18 to prepare the drafts on the twin issues of Namibia and economic crisis in Africa for consideration by the foreign ministers during the three-day conference. An over-all paper suggesting areas where the more fortunately placed Non-aligned countries could help the African countries with food assistance and other relief supplies has already been drawn up by a group of permanent representatives of these countries at the United Nations.

The Government has also called upon the African countries to specify their special needs so that the foreign ministers could set out necessary priorities at the Coordination Bureau meeting for coping with their requirements. But some African countries are a little wary about this Non-aligned move since they are apprehensive that any strident speeches made at the Coordination Bureau meeting holding the former colonial powers responsible for the plight of Africa might put off those who have been providing food aid to mitigate starvation.

No criticism of West: The intention of countries like India in suggesting a discussion on the economic crisis in Africa is not to pillory the West but to draw the attention of both developed and developing societies to the urgent need for a global effort to deal with the famine conditions there. The Coordination Bureau was

to have met in Addis Ababa, but the Ethiopian government was in no condition to host it when the country was going through one of the worst famines in its history.

An Arab-African foreign ministers meeting is being held in Libya on the eve of the Coordination Bureau meeting in Delhi to discuss what the oil-rich countries could do to help the African people. A good many of the Non-aligned foreign ministers attending the Bureau meeting will be flying straight from Tripoli to Delhi with fuller knowledge of the African plight.

There is also a move that the eight-member Non-aligned group on Palestine consisting of Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, India, PLO, Senegal, Yugoslavia and Zambia should get together during the Coordination Bureau meeting in Delhi.

CSO: 4600/1457

INDIA

SPECIAL ENVOY SENT TO EXPLAIN MORROCAN POSITION ON SAHARA

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Mar 85 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 19.

The King of Morocco is sending the Speaker of his country's Parliament, Mr. Ahmed Osman, who is a former Prime Minister, to explain personally the Moroccan position on Western Sahara to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, before he visits Algeria in June on his way to Washington.

The Moroccan Speaker is arriving in Delhi on Monday, March 25, with a message from King Hassan, to carry forward the conversation that the Prime Minister of his country, Mr. Mohammed Karim Lamrani, has had with Mr. Gandhi in Moscow last week on the subject.

Armed struggle: The Polisario, the Spanish acronym for the National Liberation Front, which is supported by Algeria, has been carrying on an armed struggle against the Moroccan claim to Western Sahara after Spain left it. Though the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has recognised this revolutionary movement with the support of some 30 odd African member-States, most of the Arab countries continue to back the Moroccan claim to this territory.

The two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, and other big powers like Britain, France, West Germany, China and Japan, have not recognised the Polisario, despite the fact that its supporters have been able to obtain the recognition of many small countries in Africa, Latin America and elsewhere.

The Moroccan Government is quite concerned that, as current chairman of the non-aligned movement, India might yield to the pressures of countries like Algeria and recognise the Polisario as a National Liberation Movement. It is for this reason that the Moroccan King is sending a special envoy to India to explain his position.

Sympathy: The Indian policy hitherto has been not to get involved in this controversy and let Morocco and Algeria arrive at an amicable settlement. Despite its total sympathy for the Algerian National Liberation Movement in its heroic struggle against French colonialism, India did not recognise its provisional Government until France actually agreed to grant independence.

As chairman of NAM, India does not want to precipitate matters by recognising the Polisario, and antagonising Morocco, a fellow non-aligned country, and compelling it to become increasingly dependent on Western support. It would like to see the Western Sahara issue settled amicably taking into account the historical interests of Morocco and the wishes of its people.

The mineral rich northern part of Western Sahara is under Moroccan control, while the Algerian-backed Polisario has been dominating the desert area. After the Spanish left, Morocco and Mauritania had effectively partitioned Western Sahara, but the Polisario had pushed out Mauritanian troops from the southern part.

Sincere belief: As any recognition of the Polisario at this stage is bound to lead to break of diplomatic relations with Morocco, as it happened in the case of Yugoslavia, India has been refraining from it in the sincere belief that the issue should be settled by Algeria and Morocco through direct discussions.

Though the two countries have broken off diplomatic relations, the President of Algeria and the King of Morocco have not only met to explore the possibilities of an amicable settlement, but also kept up their contacts at appropriate levels to continue these efforts. And India has no intention of impeding this process by taking sides in this unfortunate conflict between two important non-aligned nations.

CSO: 4600/1459

INDIA

SITUATION ON TRIPURA BORDER SAID TO WORSEN

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 21 Mar 85 p 10

[Text] Agartala, March 20--Both ruling and Opposition members of the Tripura Assembly expressed concern at the deteriorating situation along Tripura's border with Bangladesh.

Replying to a call-attention motion regarding the "forcible construction" of embankments by the Bangladesh authorities along the extreme frontier line opposite the Belonia sub-division of South Tripura district, the Chief Minister, Mr Nripen Chakrabarti, told the House yesterday that he was keeping in touch with the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Union Home Minister, Mr Chavan, regarding the latest situation along the State's border.

Both the ruling and Opposition members alleged that Bangladesh was raising a 2-1/2km long and about 75-ft high concrete embankment along the Belonia border town in violation of decision of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission. The project, to be completed with World Bank assistance, would not only irrigate 75,000 acres of paddy land in Noakhali district but had some strategic importance too, the members said.

Admitting this, Mr Chakrabarti expressed his concern over the "provocative way" in which the Bangladesh Rifles were compelling Indian workers to stop work on protective arrangements on the Belonia side of the border. The Bangladesh dyke, when completed, might cause massive floods and heavy landslides in monsoon in Belonia town along with the neighbouring border villages.

Mr Chakrabarti said that the Bangladesh authorities did not pay any heed to the request to take up work on a joint survey of the areas along the Belonia border. The Bangladesh Rifles had fired on Belonia town and its neighbouring areas constantly for 25 days in November 1982 without any provocation.

Indian work on protective measures at Amzadnagar near Belonia town had to be abandoned last July following threats by the BDR. The Chief Minister said the chief engineers of Tripura and Bangladesh decided jointly on February 27 that construction work on both sides of the international

border would remain suspended till April 3. But Bangladesh was still working on its embankment every night with BDR protection.

Mr Chakrabarti hoped that the Union Government would intervene if such provocation continued.

Participating in the debate on motion of thanks on the Governor's addresses the members expressed their concern over the "alarming rise" in incidents of transborder crime, stealing forest wealth, frequent armed encounters between Bangladeshi gangs and the Border security patrol or village defence parties and forcible occupation of a bordering patch by the BDR at Samrupar at Kailasahar sub-division in the North Tripura district.

The armed criminals from across the border were launching raids and attacks on the villages mainly in the West district almost every night, the members alleged. In some of the bordering areas the villagers had to desert their houses for fear of being killed by Bangladeshi criminals.

Replying to a question earlier tabled by an Independent MLA, Mr Manoranjan Mazumder, the Chief Minister, told the House on March 18 that the situation was deteriorating as criminals were crossing over to the State's bordering villages with modern firearms. He said the strength of the security forces deployed in the border posts was quite inadequate and not even half the minimum strength. He also said the village defence parties were being strengthened to meet the situation.

In his address to the Assembly on March 15 the Governor, Mr K.V. Krishana Rao stressed the need for bringing immediate diplomatic pressure on the neighbouring country to stop arms training to Tripura National Volunteer Extremists and harbouring them in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh.

CSO: 4600/1460

INDIA

ANALYST ON ATTEMPTS TO END IRAN-IRAQ WAR

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Mar 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 22.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Khurshed Alam Khan, and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, returned to Delhi today with a fairly optimistic impression of the Iraqi response to the appeal of the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, for an early end to the fratricidal war with Iran.

The Iraqi President, Mr. Saddam Hussein, is reported to have indicated that he would agree to a comprehensive ceasefire without any preconditions from either side, as a prelude to a negotiated settlement of the Iran-Iraqi border problem. Mr. Khurshed Alam Khan brought with him, Mr. Hussein's reply to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's letter which he had carried to Baghdad.

During their overnight stop-over in Dubai, the Minister of State and the Foreign Secretary were able to meet the Iranian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ali Mohammed Besharti, who was on his way back from Delhi to Teheran. They gave him their assessment of the Iraqi response so as to keep the Iranian President, Mr. Ali Khomeini, informed of the progress being made by India in narrowing down the differences.

Teheran visit

The two Indian representatives intend to go to Teheran in the first week of April, after the Foreign Secretary returns from Colombo and before he goes to Pakistan.

The Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Dr. J. S. Teja, who had gone earlier to Teheran, joined them in Dubai and returned to Delhi in the same plane. As he was in Teheran for four days, Dr. Teja was able to have comprehensive talks with the Iranian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sheikh-UI-Islam, but he could not meet any senior Ministers since many of them were away on the war-front.

But the limited Iranian response was adequately indicated in the special message that Mr. Besharti had brought, indicating readiness to call off the attacks on civilian targets if Iraq desisted from the use of chemical weapons.

The Indian emissaries have not put forward

any specific peace proposals as such, other than explaining the scope and purpose of the Prime Minister's appeal for an immediate cessation of attacks on civilian targets, including ships on innocent passage, as a prelude to a ceasefire followed by negotiations for settling the border dispute.

The current Indian efforts are, therefore, directed at establishing some common ground between the Iraqi readiness to agree to a comprehensive and unconditional ceasefire, and the conditional Iranian willingness to comply with the June 1984 accord to avoid attacks on civilian targets.

Difficult effort

An official spokesman said that the Indian initiative to end the war was both a difficult and delicate effort, and cautioned against undue expectations of any "miraculous results." But he stressed that the very fact that serious discussions had taken place was in itself a hopeful sign.

UNI, PTI report:

While in Dubai, Mr. Khurshed Alam Khan said that both Iran and Iraq had shown "good response" for "a comprehensive peace proposal." An Indian peace mission would visit Teheran within the next few days.

According to Mr. Bhandari, Mr. Khan conveyed to the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, the "positive" attitude of Mr. Saddam Hussein. Mr. Besharti, who dashed to Mr. Khan's hotel, said Iran would "welcome" the Indian mission whenever it comes.

Mr. Bhandari denied that India had put any proposal to Iraq for "a unilateral three-month ceasefire", as reported in a section of the press. He declined to comment on any possibility of a temporary cessation of bombing of civilian areas.

Mr. Bhandari also met the United Arab Emirates Defence Minister, Shaikh Mohammed, who later said that the UAE and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member-states wanted peace in the region and hoped that India's efforts would be successful.

CSQ: 4600/1463

INDIA

AMBASSADOR SEES IMPROVED INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 Mar 85 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 23 (PTI)--The Pakistan ambassador to India, Dr M. Humayun Khan, said today that Indo-Pak relations were on the "threshold of a promising new era" with the "deep desire" among peoples of both countries to establish the "best possible relations."

In a message over All India Radio and Doordarshan on the occasion of Pakistan day, Dr Khan said the two meetings in New Delhi and Moscow between the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi and the President of Pakistan, General Zia-Ul-Haq, had given a "fresh impetus" to the "common efforts of both countries to improve relations."

The ambassador also referred to the visit of the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, to Islamabad and of the Pakistan foreign minister, Mr Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, to New Delhi for the non-aligned bureau meeting in April.

"These high level exchanges will, we are confident, help to clear the way for the resumption of our dialogue on the no-war pact and the treaty of peace and friendship," he said.

The dialogue had made "commendable progress" at the meeting of the foreign secretaries in May last.

Dr Khan also hoped the Indo-Pakistan joint ministerial commission would be able to resume its work soon.

'Good Progress'

The commission has provided an institutional framework for greater co-operation in a number of fields making "good progress" within a short span of its existence, in such areas as communications, agriculture, education, sports, culture and information.

Pakistan attached "paramount importance" to relations with India, a country with which Dr Khan said, "we share, not only a long border, but a long history of common endeavour."

"India is a very important member of the world community. For us in Pakistan, it is doubly important and we perceive our relationship with India to be a vital element of our foreign policy," he said in the message.

India and Pakistan, Dr Khan said, were fellow members of the organisation for South Asian regional co-operation and were equally committed to the success of "this imaginative new experiment."

The ambassador said: "I believe we now stand on the threshold of a promising era in Indo-Pakistan relations. The new government in India under the dynamic leadership of Mr Rajiv Gandhi has clearly stated that it attaches high priority to the development of good relations with its neighbours. The president of Pakistan has welcomed this and reiterated Pakistan's resolve in like manner."

He said "we must not despair because of temporary setbacks that have arisen in the past and should arise above minor irritants and obstacles which individual events seem to place in our way."

Referring to developments in Pakistan, he said the past eight years had been "a period of stability" for Pakistan which enabled "us to devote more attention to the pressing tasks of economic and social development."

CSQ: 4600/1465

INDIA

RAJIV BEGINS WORK ON NEW DOMESTIC POLICIES

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Feb. 22.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, held two important meetings today with the ministers and senior officials concerned to lay down the broad parameters for working out the new education policy and the proposed incentives for the electronics industry which are fairly high on his list of priorities for implementing his election promises.

The Minister for Education, Mr. K. C. Pant, has already initiated discussions in his Ministry on what needs to be done to establish a new all-India educational system with a basic national syllabus that aims at the use of more advanced methods of teaching, greater emphasis on specialisation and a closer link between academic training and employment.

The Prime Minister has said that the Government would take at least a year to come forward with a new educational policy that is better suited to the country's requirements. But he does not want to delay the process of formulating the new policy by appointing too many committees or holding big conferences, since the advice of experts could be sought through direct consultations with them.

Making up for lost time: It is indicative of the importance he is attaching to the growth of the electronics industry that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi interrupted his election tour yesterday to inaugurate a seminar on the subject arranged by the All-India Manufacturers Organisation to plead for a more liberal policy to catch up with the lost opportunities in this vital area where the country had suffered a setback of at least

a decade through the restrictive attitude of the Government. It is equally significant that he got back to Delhi earlier today for an overnight stopover to preside over the two important meetings on education and electronics before resuming his election campaign early tomorrow morning.

The package of measures that the Prime Minister has been talking of ever since his assumption of office range from fighting corruption, curbing black money, improving the quality of administration and cleansing public life to stepping up agricultural and industrial production, reforming the educational system, promoting national integration and better utilisation of the country's manpower and natural resources to generate more employment for the people.

Rebutting criticism: It is to rebut the Opposition criticism that he has been promising too much but doing precious little to implement his pledges that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has decided to get down straightway to the tasks of framing new policies and announcing new concessions at least in some selective spheres, without waiting for the completion of the Assembly elections. It is in this context that he has chosen to set in motion the process of formulating the new education policy and also finalising the proposed concessions to encourage the electronics industry that are due to be announced soon.

There are other measures that will be spelt out in the Central budget next month that cannot be discussed in public at this stage, since they involve changes in the tax system. But several other steps are being taken at the administrative level without much publicity since

it will take time for their impact to be felt by the people.

The main thrust of activity so far has been directed at administering shock treatment to the bureaucracy, intensifying income tax raids, denying party nominations to odious characters, enacting legislation against defections and creating an atmosphere of greater rectitude in public life. But the new Government has not had the time to come to grips with the many major evils collectively contributing to the present malaise, making the country pay a heavy price for the cumulative lapses of the last two decades.

After the damage has been done, the Government has realised the follies of over-publicising the latest espionage case. The Prime Minister himself has now assured the country that the

spy ring had concentrated on obtaining commercial information and not on political or military secrets involving national security whose leakage was only incidental to the main scramble among the foreign agencies for economic intelligence.

Strange transfer order: The strange way the Government functions even when an earnest and well meaning Prime Minister like Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is at its helm became evident today when the Delhi administration issued an astonishing order suddenly transferring the judge who had already examined about 50 of the 52 witnesses in the Larkins espionage case before he could complete the hearings and deliver his judgment. The transfer was made presumably to assign to another judge the trial of the accused in the Indira Gandhi assassination case.

CSO: 4600/1441

INDIA

PAPER REPORTS PRESIDENT'S 22 FEB SPEECH IN ANDAMAN

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Feb 85 p 7

[Text]

RANGAT (Middle Andaman Island), Feb. 22.

The President, Mr. Zail Singh, today said that the Government would crush the anti-national and secessionist forces, trying to weaken the country.

Addressing a large gathering at the picturesque Rangat town, the President said there are individuals who are prepared to sell the country and destroy its integrity, to achieve their narrow objectives. "We must fight them".

The President asked the people to fight the disruptive forces. He expressed his happiness that in the island territory of Andaman and Nicobar there were no such forces.

Unity & integrity at all costs: Mr. Zail Singh, who is the first President to visit the interior areas of Andaman and Nicobar islands, said the unity and integrity of the country should be preserved at all costs.

Recalling the contribution made by the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, for the development of the country, the President said that, due to his vision and leadership, India is one of the foremost voices in the world today.

Though the country had achieved political freedom, it would not be complete unless the people achieved economic freedom, he said. Everyone should get food, clothing and shelter. "We are in the process of ensuring these to the people, but this would be possible only if unity and harmony among the different communities of the country are maintained," the President said.

Priority for maritime transport: Mr. Zail Singh said that the Seventh Plan allocation for the Union Territory would be raised to Rs. 300 crores and priority would be given for acquiring ships, the main mode of transport between the islands, construction of small dams and hydel projects and education.

Earlier speaking at Diglipur in the Northern Andaman Island, about 300 km from Port Blair, the President told the islanders that nature had bestowed its bounty on them and they should

not disturb and destroy the natural environment under the mistaken impression that progress could not be achieved otherwise.

He said at both the meetings that people living in far-flung and border areas should be given priority in the matter of development.

The President said that the Rs. 13-crore Kalpong hydel project would be commissioned by the end of the year. This would be the first hydel project in the islands.

Integration of settlers: Making a pointed reference to the fact that a majority of the people who settled down in North Andamans Island came from erstwhile East Pakistan, the President said he was greatly impressed that the people who settled in the island became part and parcel of the area.

Referring to the significant progress made by the islanders over the years, the President congratulated them for their initiative, drive and hard work. "I can well imagine the difficulties and hardships that you had faced when you came here as settlers. But the progress made by you reflects your dynamism and determination," he said, and added that in a short span of time, they had integrated fully into the area.

Mr. Zail Singh said he was happy that the people of the islands, though coming from different parts of the mainland, had woven themselves into a close-knit society and achieved national integration, imbued with a strong sense of brotherhood.

Gesture to injured engineer: Timely medical aid was arranged for a severely injured engineer today thanks to the good offices the President.

Mr. P. K. Biswas, an assistant engineer, while working at a transformer, met with an accident and fell unconscious. He had received severe burns.

When the President learnt about this, he instructed that the engineer be taken to Port Blair in a Presidential helicopter. A doctor accompanied him in the helicopter.—PTI.

CSQ: 4600/1441

INDIA

PRESS REPORTAGE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN PUNJAB

Akali Memorandum

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Mar 85 p 9

[Text]

CHANDIGARH, March 13.—A deputation of 11 Akali MLAs yesterday called on Mr K.T. Satarawala, Governor of Punjab, and submitted to him a memorandum containing their complaints against the State Government about the "repression" of Sikhs.

Mr Balwant Singh, former Finance Minister, briefing the Press after the meeting, said that the Chief Secretary and the Home Secretary were present at the meeting when they discussed their demands with the Governor. He said that the Governor had referred to the speeches and slogans at the Hola Mohalla celebrations at Anandpur Sahib and asked the Akali leaders to help control such acts of incitement.

He said they had told him that this was a reaction to the repressive measures and solution of the Punjab problem would help reduce tension in the State. The Sikhs, by tradition, resisted repression, which in turn led to defiance, they told the Governor.

Their main demand was an end to repression of Sikh youth and harassment of their families by the police. They gave specific instances in this regard. They also referred to raids against gurdwaras and the arrest of priests in some districts.

They said that those arrested under the National Security Act and cases to be tried by special courts, even when released by courts, were harassed by the police who started maintaining their record in police stations. They were being treated as criminals even after their release.

The deputation said that jails were being used as interrogation centres where detenus were being tortured. In support they quoted a report of a sessions judge. They wanted abolition of the Terrorists Affected Area (Special Courts) Act as it was discriminatory. It was building tension in the State, they said. They also wanted the ban on the Sikh Students' Federation lifted.

Mr Balwant Singh said that eight party MLAs had attended yesterday's meeting to prepare the memorandum. He said that more legislators could not be present as they had not got information about the meeting.

The Akali welcomed the release of their leaders. Mr Tarlochan Singh Riyasti, a member of Punjab Pradesh Congress(I), today demanded a general amnesty in Punjab. Addressing a Press conference, he said that all that had happened before and after the assassination of Indira Gandhi should be forgotten.

He said the confrontation now was not between the Government and the Akalis but between the Government and the Sikhs. No Prime Minister could benefit from a policy of confrontation, he added.

Mr Riyasti suggested that the Akali leaders withdraw from the scene, hand over the leadership to the youth and play only an advisory role in Punjab. Asked what he meant by youth, he said it could be the Sikh Students' Federation.

14 Mar Interview With Longowal

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Mar 85 p 6

[Article by Shaukin Singh]

[Text]

Amritsar, March 14—Akali Dal president and morcha dictator Sant Harchand Singh Longowal today dispelled the impression that he or his colleagues were released from jails following any implicit or explicit understanding between them and the Central Government.

According to Sant Longowal, he was released since the Government could not defend his detention before the Supreme Court. Possibly similar was the case of others who have been released, he said.

Talking to this correspondent in the Teja Singh Samundri Hall here today, Sant Longowal could not say as to why Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee chief Gurcharan Singh Tohra and former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal had not been released, so far as there appeared to be no case against them.

Sant Longowal, who was scheduled to leave for an undisclosed destination said at least in the Akali Dal there was no confusion about Anandpur Sahib resolution, first adopted on 16 and 17 September as basic documents of policies and programmes and later adopted by the working committee of the party. It was subsequently approved at the All-India conference of the party at Ludhiana in 1978.

"We, however, can do very little about those who are trying to create a deliberate confusion about the policies and programmes of the Akali Dal as listed with full detail in the Anandpur Sahib resolution", he added.

Sant Longowal felt that the latest position of the Akali Dal and its demands could be disclosed after the meeting of the advisory committees and district party chiefs, scheduled for 19 March here. Another meeting extended to lower party ranks scheduled for 21 March has, however, been cancelled as per the instructions issued by Sant Longowal to his office functionaries.

Sant Longowal said the restoration of the honour of Sikh community, judicial inquiry into the post-Indira Gandhi assassination riots, rehabilitation of the affected families, and accomplishment of other demands of the party were the major tasks before the party.

He said first of all feelings of anger and anguish among the Sikh masses have to be assuaged. For this the Government shall have to

extend sincere cooperation. Otherwise, the more dangerous consequences could follow. Sant Longowal said his party continued to represent the Sikh sentiments exactly as much even today as it did since it started fighting for the Sikh cause. He said he could not visualise any brave 'qaum' whose people did not have sentiments and any leader who could survive without representing those sentiments.

Asked about the argument that any judicial inquiry into the post-Indira Gandhi assassination riots could create more dangerous consequences for the Sikhs, Sant Longowal counter-questioned as to what harm had been done by the two inquiries that have already been conducted and whose reports were public documents.

The Akali Dal president did not see any difference if the Punjab administration was headed by 'either a Satarawala or a Bhopalwala'. He said this in an obvious reference to the appointment of Mr Arjun Singh as the New Governor of the State and ouster of Mr K T Satarawala.

Sant Longowal defended the Anandpur Sahib resolution saying that even late Jayaprakash Narayan and former President Sanjiva Reddy had supported it. He said the then Janata Party Punjab Minister Harbhajan Singh had sent a special letter to Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi. The letter was delivered and read out from the very stage at Ludhiana in 1978 from where a political resolution supporting the Anandpur Sahib resolution was moved by Mr G S Tohra and seconded by Mr Badal. Janata Party president Chandra Shekhar was also present on the very stage, Sant Longowal averred in his characteristic style.

He, however, advised his party colleagues against sprinkling oil on the embers that still had not died down. He told his senior party colleagues to work for putting out the fire.

Sant Longowal said special courts created for trying thousands of those arrested in the wake of Operation Blue Star and military action reminded one of British days. "Don't these ordinary courts belong to the law of the land and why these Sikhs could not been tried in full view of the public". The special courts smacked of the very conspiracy under which the Sikhs were sought to be wiped off with extra legal methods", he added.

TELEGRAPH Correspondent's Interview

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 23 Mar 85 p 6

[Interview with Sanjeev Gaur by Singh Longowal]

[Text]

On February 3, 1984, I had last met Sant Harchand Singh Longowal in his room in the Teja Singh Samundari Hall of the Golden Temple complex. He was evidently tense that day. A day before, a PTI story from Amritsar had reported about his differences with the militant Sikh leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. The story was based on what Sant Longowal had told the PTI correspondent in an informal chat. The Akali chief had said that his differences with Bhindranwale were on fundamental issues. That was the heyday of Bhindranwale's popularity. While people used to flock to the militant Sikh leader, Sant Longowal hardly had any callers. But he was most categorical in telling me: "Of course, my differences with him are on fundamental issues. He talks in the language of motorcycles and revolvers from the stage every day and I cannot endorse him there. That is all."

Today, Sant Longowal is in a different position. He has come out of jail after being kept under detention for nine months. If Bhindranwale was the Sikh hero before and after Operation Bluestar, today it is Sant Longowal. Hundreds of people—men, women and children flock to see him wherever he goes. People touch his feet. He greets everyone with folded hands and he smiles benignly all the time.

I met the Akali "dictator" in the same room from where he was arrested along with the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) president, Mr Gurcharan Singh Tohra and other Akali leaders by the Army on June 6. The Sant was surrounded by many Akali leaders and his various admirers and followers.

Q: Santji, according to the official announcement, you, Mr Tohra and some other Akali leaders surrendered before the Army on June 6?

A: This is a false government propaganda against us. The

with Sardar Bhan Singh and Avinashi Singh (secretary and assistant secretary of the SGPC) that I left my room and went to Tohra sahib's room. Later Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, Bibi Amarjit Kaur and some other leaders also collected there.

The previous Prime Minister was against the Akalis and Sikhs because she was annoyed with them for their gallant role during the Emergency. When all others parties were asleep, the Akali Dal fought against the government for the 19 months. She wanted to teach them and the Sikhs a lesson. The present Prime Minister is only following in the footsteps of his mother. Besides it is easier for the Congress(I) to win the favour of the communal majority in the election by giving a bad name or thrashing the Sikhs.

government wanted to malign, me, Tohra sahib and the other leaders. The government obviously used the media as their weapon against us. We were all arrested by the Army. I will explain how it all happened.

The firing started in the Golden Temple at 4.38 am on June 4. I was in my room in the Teja Singh Samundari Hall. I remained in my room and as all telephones were disconnected we could not contact anyone outside. Next evening, I sent a message to Tohra sahib who was in his own room to come to my room. Tohra sahib sent me a message back saying that I should go to his room. So it was

Tohra sahib was already there. Early next morning, that is on June 6, I think, it was around four in the morning when armymen violently knocked at the door. Our two gunmen—Nazar Singh and Ram Singh—were injured when they tried to prevent the armymen. Then they arrested all of us and took us away in an Army vehicle to the cantonment in the evening.

Q: How did the armymen behave with you after the arrest?

A: They were generally very harsh and impolite. They did not even allow Tohra sahib to tie his turban.

Q: How many people do you estimate were killed in the Golden Temple during the Army action?

A: The number cannot be less than 8,000. With my own eyes I saw army men shooting down hundreds of Sikh youths after having first captured them from the Guru Ram Dass Sarai. Most of them were either pilgrims or visitors.

Q: How about the casualties of the Army?

A: I did not see the body of any armyman.

Q: Did you have any contact with Bhindranwale during the Army action.

A: No.

Q: When did you meet him last?

A: We used to often see each other at the Harmandir Sahib (the main shrine in the Golden Temple) where both of us used to go to say our prayers before the wahe guru.

Q: But when did you last have a meeting with him?

A: That I don't remember.

Q: What are your views about Bhindranwale?

A: He was a missionary of the Sikhs who always supported the Akali demands.

Q: Do you think Bhindranwale has become a martyr now?

A: There are two opinions prevailing at the moment. Some do not believe that he was killed during the Army action. They think he survived. Others feel he has become a martyr. Anyhow, he has become immortal in history.

Q: The popular feeling is that Bhindranwale was a creation of the ruling party...

A: That is not valid today. Basically he was a Sikh missionary.

Q: Santji, tell me something about your life in jail?

A: I was kept in a resthouse converted into a jail at Udaipur. I used to get up quite early in the morning. Sometimes around two and never later than three. I would do some *nit nem* (meditation) before taking a cup of tea around six in the morning. During the day, I used to get two more cups of tea. In the afternoon, I would take one roti with some

vegetable; in the evening it was again one roti with one vegetable.

For three months, I did not get any newspapers. Later they started giving me old newspapers. Since I can read only Gurmukhi, I only asked for Punjabi newspapers. I would get the Punjabi Tribune, the Akali Patrika and the Ajit. But the copies were always at least 10 days old. I used to spend some time reading the Gurbani and some books on Sikh history. I hardly got letters in the jail. If some letters arrived they were at least three months old. Communication was a problem with the jail staff—their Hindi was typically pure.

Q: Why did the government not release Mr Badal and Mr Tohra?

A: It is the mischief of the government.

Q: There is a strong feeling in both official circles as well as a section of the Akalis that you struck some deal with the government before your release. Jathedar Jagdev Singh Talwandi, president of the rival Akali Dal has made a categorical statement to this effect.

A: It is absolutely false. In fact, the government, by releasing me, only avoided the verdict of the Supreme Court in my favour. How could there be any links between the government and me, or, for that matter, Tohra Sahab and Badal Sahab when all of us were not allowed to meet even our close relatives in jail. Others were allowed dozens of interviews every week.

Q: At your first press conference in Amritsar after your release from the jail, you accused the government of not treating Sikhs like Indians and wanting to finish the community with its anti-Sikh policies. Why do you think the government is against the Sikhs?

A: The previous Prime Minister was against the Akalis and Sikhs because she was annoyed with them for their gallant role during the Emergency. When all other parties were asleep the Akali Dal fought against the government for the 19 months. She wanted to teach them and

the Sikhs a lesson. The present Prime Minister is only following in the footsteps of his mother. Besides, it was easier for the Congress(I) to win the favour of the communal majority in the elections by giving a bad name or thrashing the Sikhs. This policy has paid the ruling party rich dividends. Then the recent massacre of Sikhs in Delhi and other parts of the country has clearly shown the inimical trend of the present government towards Sikhs.

The executive and the police—both in Delhi and other parts of the country—were silent speculators while Sikhs were being burnt alive and their properties looted or burnt by the Congress goondas. According to the reports, some policemen even participated in the looting and killing of Sikhs.

Q: Whom do you blame the most for the November anti-Sikh riots in the country?

A: There are three reports by great jurists of the country. They are all non-Sikhs. These reports have named many Cabinet ministers, ruling party leaders and police officials. The massacre of Sikhs could not have happened without the connivance of the senior most authorities. I, therefore, blame these highest authorities the most for the massacre of Sikhs in November.

Q: Do you blame the Prime Minister too for the November riots?

A: Of course I do. He cannot absolve himself of his responsibility particularly now when he is not ordering a judicial probe into the riots.

Q: Will the Akali Dal move the court of law against the guilty persons mentioned in the three enquiry reports?

A: We are consulting our lawyers in this regard.

Q: Coming back to the Army action again, do you think there was any alternative left with the government but to send troops into the Golden Temple to deal with the terrorists?

A: The Army action was not called for if the government considered Sikhs as countrymen. There were many other

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including women
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methods of dealing with the situation. But the government deliberately sent in the Army, breaking all promises and declarations made in Parliament and in the media, that it would not send the Army into the Golden Temple. It was the government who was the aggressor and the extremist, not us. Those who acted in self-defence when the Army attacked the Golden Temple were not extremists.

Q: Now what should the government do to bring back normalcy in Punjab.

A: Free all arrested persons including women and children, withdraw the Army, abolish special courts, lift the ban on

the All India Sikh Student Federation, (AISSF) order a judicial probe into the November riots and accept the Anandpur Sahib resolution.

Q: Do you think Mr Rajiv Gandhi is sincere in wanting to resolve the Punjab tangle?

A: So far he has not taken any practical steps in that direction.

Q: Do you think a settlement in Punjab is possible now?

A: We pray to Sat Guru to give wisdom to the powers that be.

Q: At this crucial juncture when Punjab is passing through a crisis, what is your message to the Sikhs and Punjabis?

A: Let all the Sikhs and the Punjabis unite to face the oppression of the rulers with endurance. I also appeal to all countrymen to appreciate Sikh sentiments and also extend support to their genuine demands and grievances. Also beware of the tactics of the ruling authorities who are out to divide the people for their petty vested interests.

Q: Santji, what was your reaction to the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi and the holocaust that followed.

A: Almost 10 days elapsed before I learnt about all the tragic happenings. It was all most sorrowful.

Talwandi Faction's Resolution

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 21 Mar 85 p 4

[Article by Sanjeev Gaur]

[Text]

Amritsar, March 20: The Akali Dal faction led by Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi today launched a frontal attack on Sant Harchand Singh Longowal accusing him of having reached "some sort of settlement" with the government before his recent release from detention.

In a resolution passed at a meeting of Mr Talwandi's faction in the Golden Temple complex here this evening, Sant Longowal and Mr Gurcharan Singh Tohra, president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabhandhak Committee (SGPC), were strongly condemned for their role during Operation Bluestar. The resolution stated: "This meeting feels that Longowal and Tohra are in search of chairs from the blood spilled by the Sikh panth." The meeting warned the Sikh community not to be misled by the two leaders.

A party spokesman told newsmen that the meeting was attended by over 1,500 Akali leaders, workers, All-India Sikh Students' Federation (AISSF) activists and Sikh intellectuals. Prominent Akali leaders who attended the meeting were Mrs Rajinder Kaur, Istri Akali Dal president, Mr Jaswinder Singh Brar and Mr Randhir Singh Cheema—both former ministers.

In another resolution, the meeting alleged that Sant Longowal and Mr Tohra wished to make profit of the sacrifices made by the militant Sikh leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his followers during the Army action in June. The resolution added, "The same people were after the blood of Bhindranwale and his followers before Operation Bluestar."

The meeting also held Sant Longowal responsible for the killing of Bhindranwale. Without naming Sant Longowal and Mr Tohra but clearly indicating them the resolution stated that while the Golden Temple was being destroyed, the "so-called leaders," of the Sikh panth were surrendering to the Army. It added; "the same people had

earlier declared that the Army would have to enter the Golden Temple over their dead bodies."

Most of the resolutions passed at today's meeting mentioned Bhindranwale and praised the militant Sikh leader for his "supreme sacrifice" for the Sikh cause.

The meeting also strongly condemned the Union government for the "atrocities" committed against the Sikhs from the Operation Bluestar till the November riots. It demanded a judicial probe into the riots and punishment of those guilty. The meeting also demanded the lifting of the ban on the AISSF, withdrawal of the Army from Punjab and abolition of special courts.

Mr Talwandi told newsmen after the meeting that he would continue to fight for the acceptance of the Anandpur Sahib resolution. He accused Sant Longowal and his colleagues of giving a wrong interpretation of the resolution. "They say that the resolution demands more rights for the states. But the resolution in fact envisages special rights for the Sikhs. On this point we have our basic differences," he said.

Asked about the appeal of the five high priests yesterday for forging unity in the Sikh panth, Mr Talwandi replied that the high priests should have consulted him before issuing such an appeal. Mr Jaswinder Singh Brar, a close confidant of Mr Talwandi, said, "The high priests should not involve themselves with the petty politics." He added that they represented a particular group of Sikhs.

Mr Talwandi categorically stated that his Akali Dal would maintain separate identity. On being questioned further, he, however, added that if the Akali Dal (Longowal) launched a struggle against the Centre for the acceptance of the Anandpur Sahib resolution and the other demands listed by him in the various resolutions passed at today's meeting, he would extend his support to the agitation.

Gandhi Visit to Punjab

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 24 Mar 85 pp 1, 7

[Text] Hussainiwala, March 23—Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in his first visit to Punjab after assuming the office of Primer Minister, today announced a package of economic measures aimed at accelerating the pace of development in the State. Mr Gandhi said that the Centre was ready to hold talks with the Akalis within the constitutional framework.

The Prime Minister, who was laying the foundation of the national martyrs' memorial here, said that the Thein dam would be built at the earliest and a railway integral coach factory would be set up. Possibilities of locating some other heavy industry plants would also be explored, he said, adding that an effort would be made to give more heavy industry to the State. (According to UNI, Mr Gandhi announced a decision to grant wheat bonus to farmers in the State. This would be over and above the support price of Rs 157 per quintal).

Another significant announcement by him was to set up what he described as a regional cultural centre in Punjab which would help promote and preserve the culture of the northern region. He said that of late the region had been culturally hit hard. He expressed the hope that the region would soon regain its past glory.

He laid the foundation of the memorial where Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were cremated after they were hanged at Lahore 54 years ago. He also paid homage at the Samadhi of Shaheed Bhagat Singh's mother.

Addressing a large gathering, Mr Gandhi said that Bhagat Singh had raised the voice of India's freedom and unity. And he was not alone in Punjab. Whenever India was threatened, Punjab had stood in the forefront to protect the country's unity and freedom. He recalled that Nehru had drafted a resolution 54 years ago paying homage to Shaheed Bhagat Singh and "we are repeating the homage today."

Mr Gandhi said that Punjab was an ancient land and it had been a fast progressing State today. After India got freedom, it was a poor country dependent on grain imports. The nation decided to become self-sufficient in foodgrain and looked towards Punjab for achieving it. The first big project was built at Bhakra which not only provided irrigation water but created a climate of development and self-sufficiency. India could show the world that she had become self-sufficient in food production.

He said that Punjab faced some problems today. There were both political and economic difficulties. He would not like to say much about the political difficulties though Indira Gandhi had spoken of what could be done to solve the tangle in her broadcast and he would also do the same, or even more within the framework of the Constitution.

The position had been made clear several times. Even if there were political problems, Punjab should not go down. He wanted to see it progress in the economic field at the same rate as in the past. He did not want any State, the least of all Punjab, to be slow in development work.

The Prime Minister said that Punjab farmers should flourish. The Central Government had already taken two steps for this purpose. Insurance for crops had been provided in the budget and a higher procurement price for wheat announced. He would see that the Punjab farmers also get bonus for their crop. What was needed was a big push to the farming in the State. He said that construction of the Thein dam would ensure that the farmers get more water and power and the water going waste now was properly utilized. He said that farmers, jawans and small industrialists of Punjab could not be matched by anybody. They had to be assisted to strengthen India. The Central Budget had listed steps to help these people.

He referred to the unemployment problem in Punjab and the complaint of lack of heavy industry in the State and said that an effort would be made to locate such industry here. The heavy industry would result in ancillary industry and lead to an all-round development, he said.

Mr Arjun Singh, Governor, welcomed the Prime Minister at the function where perhaps the heaviest security arrangements seen in this region were made.

Yesterday, the president of the Akali Dal (Master Tara Singh), Jathedar Kuldeep Singh, urged the Akalis in Punjab "to give up the reckless path of intransigence and confrontation and respond positively to the bold initiative taken by the Prime Minister to normalize the situation in the State."

CSO: 4600/1461

INDIA

PRESS REPORTS ON DISPUTE BETWEEN COMMUNIST PARTIES

CPI Secretariat's Statement

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Mar 85 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, March 13--The central leadership of the CPI today made a counter-allegation against its rival the CPI(M), for wrecking Left unity and sabotaging electoral adjustments during the recent Assembly election in Bihar.

In a statement issued here, the CPI central secretariat further alleged the CPI(M) leaders had made "unjustifiable" claims on seats allotted to the CPI and rejected all "reasonable" offers of seat adjustment till the end.

The CPI joined issue with the Marxist Communists to reject their "unfounded" statements which accused the CPI of suffering from "insensate electoral ambitions which drove to wreck all chances of Left unity."

The central secretariat statement of the CPI further pointed out that it was the rival Marxist Communists who had adopted a "negative" and "disruptive" attitude towards all the Left parties in Bihar. During the Lok Sabha elections, although there was a complete agreement among six Left parties over 24 seats (out of a total of 54), the CPI(M) had refused to sign a joint statement pledging support to each other in the above seats. It had opposed the candidates of the CPI, Forward Block, Marxist Coordination and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in six constituencies because it had already agreed to support the alliance of the DMKP and BJP.

Instead of criticizing this opportunist and disruptive tactic of its Bihar unit, the CPI(M) central committee in its review of the Lok Sabha elections had sought to cover it up by falsely accusing the CPI "of playing a disruptive role and helping the process of disunity by demanding an excessive number of seats for itself."

The CPI statement alleged that the Bihar leadership of the CPI(M) had repudiated all agreements reached at the district level. In fact, the State secretary of the CPI(M) in a statement issued to the Press repudiated all understanding between CPI and CPI(M) units and went on supporting candidates of "bourgeois parties" against the CPI in many constituencies.

The CPI still hoped that the CPI(M) leaders would return to the path of reason and cooperation, adopt a self-critical attitude towards their own mistakes and try to resolve the existing differences through bilateral talks rather than through acrimonious polemics, the CPI central secretariat statement said.

Communist Newspaper's Report

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Mar 85 p 6

JPRS-NEA-85-064

7 May 1985

[Text]

The CPI has strongly refuted the charge levelled against it by the CPI-M that the party's "insensate electoral ambition" led to a complete breakdown of understanding between Left parties in the just-concluded Assembly polls in Bihar.

In a statement issued on Wednesday the CPI has further accused the Marxists of adopting "disruptive tactics" in Bihar and trying to cover them up by flinging "slandorous accusations" at the CPI.

Even as the CPI central secretariat was issuing this statement, CPI-M leader M Basavapunniah repeated his party's charge against the CPI while saying that the totally unrealistic assessment by the CPI of its strength was responsible for the Left parties faring badly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. This led to electoral clashes between the two parties in many constituencies, thereby, splitting the Left vote.

Incidentally, this is the second time in the last four months that the two Communist parties have bandied charges over the question of who was "wrecking Left unity". During the last Lok Sabha polls, the two parties failed to reach an understanding over the Khammam seat in Andhra Pradesh and blamed each other for the failure.

Joining issues with the CPI-M in the latest controversy, the CPI has alleged that when a complete understanding was reached between six Left parties over 24 seats in Bihar in the Lok Sabha election, the CPI-M refused to sign a joint statement pledging support to each other. Similarly, in the Assembly polls, the Marxist leadership in Bihar "largely wrecked Left unity and sabotaged electoral adjustments".

The CPI has blamed the tactical line of the CPI-M, which allegedly gave more importance to the DMKP-BJP alliance than to the Left alliance in both elections. Claiming to set the records right, the CPI said while it polled 20.6 lakh votes by contesting 16 seats in Bihar, the Marxists polled only 2.6 lakh votes in the three constituencies where it fielded candidates.

This would indicate that the CPI contested a lesser number of seats (162 seats) in the Assembly polls than its strength would have warranted.

The CPI-M, on the other hand, not only made unjustifiable claims on seats contested by the CPI but also rejected all reasonable offers of adjustment till the end. "Only an insensate desire to appease the bourgeois proponents of all-in opposition unity by sacrificing the legitimate claims of other Left parties can provide the rationale behind this queer line of reasoning," the CPI has said.

The CPI has further said that when the CPI-M filed nominations in two of its sitting seats, the CPI did the same in two of the Marxist's sitting seats. But it withdrew its candidates once the CPI-M did the same. These agreements were reached at the district level which were later repudiated by the CPI-M state leadership. By pursuing such tactics the CPI-M not only marred the CPI's electoral chances but their own as also those of other Left parties in Bihar.

The CPI has hoped that the CPI-M would "adopt a self-critical attitude towards their mistakes" and try to sort out differences with the CPI through bilateral talks rather than through "acrimonious polemics".

CSO: 4600/1446

INDIA

NEW COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR ORISSA APPOINTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Mar 85 p 7

[Text] Bhubaneswar, March 13--Fifteen Ministers--five of the Cabinet rank and 10 Ministers of State--were yesterday morning appointed to the Council of Ministers in Orissa headed by Mr Janaki Balav Patnaik, reports PTI.

The new Ministers, except one who was absent, were sworn in at a function held on the lawns of Raj Bhavan here last evening.

Among them there are as many as eight new faces, all of whom have been appointed Ministers of State. Five members of the outgoing Ministry--Mr Gangadhar Mohapatra, Mr Niranjan Patnaik, Mr Bhajaman Behere, Mr Jugal Kishore Patnaik and Mr Habibullah Khan--have found a berth in the new Cabinet.

The new Orissa Council of Ministers, at its first meeting here last night approved the State's second supplementary Budget for the current financial year and the vote-on-account for 1985-86. The Budget would be presented during the brief session of the new Assembly slated to begin tomorrow.

The Orissa Chief Minister, Mr J.B. Patnaik, said here yesterday that his Government would faithfully implement the poll pledges and carry on the drive against poverty and unemployment vigorously.

CSO: 4600/1446

7 May 1985

INDIA

NEW UTTAR PRADESH CABINET SWORN IN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Mar 85 p 6

[Text]

Lucknow, March 13 — A 36-member two-tier Ministry headed by Chief Minister N D Tewari was sworn in by Governor C P N Singh at Raj Bhawan here today.

One Cabinet Minister, Mr Gopinath Dixit, and two Ministers of State, Mr Bhola Shankar Maurya and Mr Shiv Balak Pasi, who were out of station would take their oath in a couple of days, according to Chief Secretary Girish Mehra, who briefed newsmen later in the evening giving details of the portfolios of the new Ministers.

One Cabinet Minister, eight Ministers of State and a Deputy Minister have been dropped while eight former Ministers of State have been promoted to the Cabinet rank. Two of them, Mr Sunil Shastri and Mr Sanjay Singh, both in their 30s are tipped here as future leaders capable of heading the Government in the State.

Two Cabinet Ministers, Mr Ajit Pratap Singh and Mr Sibta Razi, are not members of either House of the legislature but the latter is a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Of the 18 Ministers of State, 11 are newcomers while Mr Om Prakash Bachharia had been a Deputy Minister in the V P Singh Ministry.

The Chief Minister will look after General Administration, Home, PWD, Hill Area Development, Urban Development, Planning, Finance, Justice, Forest, Cane Development, Technical Education, Industry, Information and National Integration.

The portfolio of others Cabinet Ministers are: Mrs Ajit Pratap Singh — Power, Mr Vasudeo Singh — Food and Civil Supplies, Mrs Swaroop Kumari Bakshi — Harijan and Social

Welfare, Mr Narendra Singh — Agriculture, Mrs Beni Bai — Animal Husbandry, Mr Arun Kumar Singh — Cooperation, Mr Raghuvir Singh Yadav — Jail and Political Pensions, Mr Sanjay Singh — Transport, Mr Baldev Singh Arya — Revenue, Mr Ram Ratan Singh — Parliamentary Affairs, Mr Veer Bahadur Singh — Irrigation, Mr Syed Sibte Razi — Education and Waqf, Mr Shyam Surat Upadhyay — Rural Development, Mr Saeedul Hassan — Labour and Mr Lokpati Tripathi — Health.

Ministers of State: Mr Om Prakash Bachharia, Mr Gulab Singh, Mr Gauri Shankar, Mr Zafar Ali Naqvi, Mrs Padma Seth, Mr Praveen Kumar Sharma, Mr Surendra Singh (of Ghazipur) and Mr Shafiur Rahman Ansari have been tagged with the Chief Minister while Mr Inderjit (Harijan and Social Welfare), Mr Deepak Kumar (Cooperation), Mr Daljit Singh (Animal Husbandary), Mr Man Pal Singh (Food and Civil supplies), Mr Shankata Prasad Shahi (education), Mr Shukhda Mishra (Power), Mr Surendra, of Aligarh (Rural Development and Panchayats) and Mr Hukum Singh (Agriculture) have been given charges of their respective departments.

According to informed sources, Mr Gopinath Dixit might be asked to look after Industry or Forest.

The dropped Ministers of State are Mr Shivnath Singh Kushwaha, Mr Gopal Ram Das, Mr Ram Naresh Shukla, Mrs Premwati Tiwari, Mr Sitaram Nishad, Mr Ram Sajiwan Singh, Dr Krishna Veer Singh and Mr Raj Pal Tyagi. There are four women and an equal number of minority community members in the Ministry. Also included in the list is a Sikh.

CSO: 4600/1446

INDIA

REPORTAGE ON MEETING OF BJP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Decisions, Vajpayee Speech

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 17 Mar 85 p 12

[Text] The national executive of the Bharatiya Janata Party, now meeting in Calcutta, welcome the party president's proposal to set up a working group which would review the BJP's achievements and shortcomings and also recommend corrective measures. A resolution to this effect was adopted by the national executive of the party on Saturday after analysing the results of elections to State Assemblies.

Mr Bhairon Singh Shakhawat, former Chief Minister of Rajasthan and member of the national executive of the BJP, said the party would complete five years of existence on April 6 and this would be an appropriate occasion for the party to assess the overall situation facing the country. The proposed working group would draw up a five-year plan of action which "can galvanize the party and make it an effective instrument for political and socio-economic change."

Replying to a question, Mr J.P. Mathur, another member of the national executive, said the BJP intended to maintain a separate identity and did not envisage a merger with like-minded parties. It might, however, join hands with other Opposition parties on specific issues like amending the Constitution for electoral reforms. Commenting on the party's relations with the CPI (M) and the CPI, Mr Mathur said: "They are not nationalist parties. They are guided by China or Russia."

While analysing the poll results, the national executive felt that compared with the Lok Sabha elections of 1984, the BJP's poll performance in the Assembly elections showed an all-round improvement in terms of seats as well as popular votes. While in the Lok Sabha elections the party had secured the highest number of votes in only 45 Assembly segments, it won 172 seats in the Assembly elections.

The national executive expressed concern about the "malpractices and violence that are being increasingly witnessed in the elections" and demanded that the Government attend to the issue of electoral reforms "with the same urgency as it did to the anti-defection Bill."

The national executive also resolved to retain the party's present identity and reaffirmed its faith in the five-point principle drawn up by it after its withdrawal from the Janata Party in 1980. It also reiterated its faith in the leadership of its president Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee. A spokesman ruled out the possibility of the BJP reverting to the old name of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

A Staff Reporter adds: Mr A.B. Vajpayee told a meeting in the Shahid Minar Maidan in Calcutta on Saturday that the new Central Government was pursuing wrong priorities which would only help the rich and worsen the condition of the poor. He thought it strange that while crores of money was being spent by the Centre for extending the television network, the basic needs of the people continued to be ignored. The meeting was organized in connexion with the party's national executive meeting in the city.

Mr Vajpayee said that though there was nothing wrong in the induction of sophisticated technology and rapid modernization as was being stressed by the Prime Minister time and again, there was a strong possibility that the move would only strengthen the hands of the multinationals and big companies at the expense of the labour-intensive small-scale industries. How many men could be employed under the Prime Minister's industrial policy, he asked. Indians had the right to vote but not the right to work, he said.

The BJP leader said that if the Prime Minister was to wipe out black money from the country, as he had announced, his party would also be wiped out. The Congress (I) was run on black money, as was demonstrated during the recent polls, he said.

The massive mandate in favour of the Congress (I) during the last Lok Sabha elections, according to him was the "people's tribute to Indira Gandhi and not to the party" and because of the "misuse" of radio and television for the Congress (I)'s. But its waning popularity was proved in the Assembly elections, he said. He demanded fresh elections in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir, as both the Governments had been set up with the help of defectors.

Mr Vajpayee criticized the Left Front Government in West Bengal for its "misrule" in different fields. People's disenchantment with this Government led to the Congress (I) gains in this State, even though the Congress (I) had a dismal administrative record here, he added.

Vajpayee Describes Session

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Mar 85 p 9

[Text] Calcutta, March 18--The national executive of the Bharatiya Janata Party which concluded its session here over the week-end, has decided that there will be no revival of the Jana Sangh.

The issue was discussed at considerable length after the party president, Mr A.B. Vajpayee, had raised it.

Mr Vajpayee said today the committee had felt that reviving the Jana Sangh "will amount to a slideback and we cannot afford to do that if we are to make progress."

It is learnt that a section of the party wanting to revive the Jana Sangh could not make much headway in the face of strong opposition from Mr Vajpayee.

Mr Vajpayee mocked at those wanting to revive the Sangh by saying: "There are some masquerading as Jana Sanghis, a few posters are to be seen here and there but so far as the BJP as a whole is concerned, there can be no going back to the pre-1977 days."

Limited Scope

Asked why he was opposed to the Jana Sangh, Mr Vajpayee said: "Its scope is very limited. Today the BJP is a much more widespread party and we even have a Muslim legislator in our ranks."

The BJP president also stressed that his party had "no truck with the Vishwan Hindu Parishad." However, to placate those BJP members having close relationship with the Parishad, he added: "While our members can maintain relationship with the Hindu Parishad, that will be strictly in their individual capacity and not as BJP men."

This was the first time that the BJP's national executive met in Calcutta and its leaders in West Bengal were hopeful that the session would prove to be a springboard for the state unit. But their hopes were belied when the executive felt it would be pointless to make any effort at projecting the party in a big way.

"We have come to the conclusion that in West Bengal, where the people are totally polarised, it will not be possible for any other party or a combination of parties to emerge as a third force against the CPM and the Congress," Mr Vajpayee said.

Mr Vajpayee, who addressed a meet-the-press programme here today, lashed out at the prime minister for continuing to make what he called baseless attacks against the opposition and at the same time seeking its support.

He said: "We will have to think twice before attending any meeting to solve the Punjab tangle unless the Prime Minister withdraws his charge that we were behind Mrs Gandhi's assassination."

On the budgetary provision for company donations to political parties, Mr Vajpayee said: "We do not support this as only the Congress will gain from it. In fact, now they will get money both in black and white whereas no company would have the courage to show that it had donated money to the opposition."

On the Sri Lanka issue, he said while the government could only offer advice, "care should be taken to ensure that no Tamil terrorist operated from inside India."

INDIA

RSS PASSES RESOLUTION ON CONGRESS-I VICTORY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 21 Mar 85 p 11

[Text] New Delhi, March 20--"The unprecedented mandate given by our people to the Congress in the recent Lok Sabha elections appears to be an indication that they have taken the latter's slogan of 'the country's security and integrity in danger' quite seriously," a resolution passed by the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, at its three-day meeting just concluded in Nagpur.

The resolution said "The burden, therefore, now rests on the ruling party to vindicate the implicit trust reposed in it by the people by undertaking prompt and effective steps towards that end, failing which, the ruling party is bound to lay itself open to the charge of using the slogan for just an election stunt."

The RSS held that the ruling party could prove its bona fides and its sincerity in sounding the kind of "nation's integrity in danger" slogan by scrapping Article 370 of the Constitution, and by initiating effective steps to indentify and evict the infiltrators in Kashmir and elsewhere and by deporting forthwith the foreign missions and missionaries indulging in conversion and anti-national activities.

The resolution said: "the Punjab and Assam problems till this day stare us in the face as standing challenges to the nation's integrity and security. The shocking revelations in recent days of the espionage network whose tentacles had penetrated, over the past two decades, such vital and sensitive places as the secretaries of the President, the Prime Minister and of some important Ministries, has only exposed our Government's callous indifference and inefficiency towards such a crucially important sphere as the nation's security."

It said that the RSS "has from time to time been alerting our Government and the people about the divisive and explosive nature of anti-national activities such as the politics of conversion being carried on under the cover of the right of religious freedom, hatching of conspiracies with a view to disrupting our social fabric by inciting apparent differences of caste, creed, race, language, etc. These have afforded a free hand to anti-national elements to indulge in secessionist politics behind the smokescreen of Article 370 of the Constitution.

Punjab

On Punjab, the RSS welcomed the Government's step in unconditionally releasing the Akalis leaders to restore normal conditions in the State. "The Akali leadership too, in fitness of things, should now come forward with a matching, constructive gesture without the hangover of past prejudice to present their demands in a new perspective and keeping in view the unity and integrity of the nation," it said.

In a resolution on Sri Lanka, the RSS said the problem there was no more an internal problem of that country "but has endangered the security, economy and peace of the entire southern coast of our country."

It said "the developing situation has left our countries with no other choice except to take some urgent and effective steps to make the Sri Lankan authorities see the folly of pursuing a policy which is not only alienating a sizable section of their society but also antagonizing a consistently friendly neighbour like Bharat."

The meeting also adopted a resolution mourning the assassination of Indira Gandhi. It said "the cruel assassination of Indira Gandhi has left our country and even the outside world stunned. In her death, a highly dynamic figure has disappeared from our political state as also from the international forums. Throughout her tenure, until her very last, she dominated the entire national scene and carried on with supreme self-assurance. The climax in her life was reached when she played the crucial role in the liberation of Bangladesh, and became the focal point of the nation's adoration and gratitude. There can be no doubt that she strove all her life to safeguard the freedom and uphold the honour of our country in the community of nations."

CSQ: 4600/1460

INDIA

JAPANESE WARY OF PRESSURE FOR MARUTI INDIGENIZATION

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Mar 85 p 6

[Text]

MADRAS, March 17.

Mr. Takumi Hosaki, Japanese Ambassador in India, on Saturday voiced "the apprehensions of the Japanese automakers about the possible pressure by the Government of India on Suzuki to agree to the use of India-made components for the Maruti car under a hasty programme of indigenisation. Such hurried use of Indian components, in their opinion, would adversely affect the quality of the automobile produced with Japanese collaboration.

He pointed out that several Japanese automakers were watching with keen interest the issue of indigenisation in the Suzuki-Maruti collaboration project, the first full-scale collaboration of the Japanese automobile industry with India.

Mr. Hosaki, addressing a meeting, organised by the Association of Indian Engineering Industry (AIEI, Southern Region), noted the recent policy liberalisation introduced by the Government of India and made a plea for more steps to make it worthwhile for the Japanese to invest in India such as relaxation of all restrictions, expansion of items under OGL, improvement of infrastructure for industries and enforcement of quality of products for competing favourably in the world market.

"Doing surprisingly well": He praised India for "doing surprisingly well" in the difficult and gloomy, global economic environment, buffeted by two successive oil shocks and recession. The Japanese were aware of the huge market India offered for their products, he said, and added that a new cooperative relationship between the two countries could be built with strong will on both sides.

Mr. Suresh Krishna, Chairman, AIEI

(Southern Region), said that while the Indian automobile and components industries did not stand comparison with their counterparts in Japan, it certainly stood to logic that the vast technological infrastructure built in the Indian auto components industry over the years was taken full advantage of.

Trade balance with Japan: He also appealed to the Japanese to involve themselves in a greater measure in the south of India which could boast of entrepreneurial skills, skilled labour, established ancillaries, affording excellent scope for a great deal of collaboration between Indian and Japanese enterprises. Referring to India's continuing adverse trade balance with Japan, Mr. Suresh Krishna said that Japan must actively consider importing from India engineering and manufactured products. With the massive imports of automotive packages, he was afraid the trade balance would further deteriorate against India.

Upgrading technology: Mr. T. K. Balaji admitted that the Indian automotive industry had several weaknesses in the areas of technology, quality, cost etc., and said that determined efforts were called for to upgrade the technology level, to promote a greater degree of competitiveness in the industry to reduce cost and improve quality.

Mr. Deepak Banker commended Japanese investment in India, which had political stability and had opened up its economy a great deal.

Calls on Governor: Mr. Hosaki called on the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Mr. S. L. Khurana. He also visited the Madras harbour and the Integral Coach Factory during his first visit to Madras.

CSO: 4600/1454

INDIA

ANALYST REPORTS ON OFFICIAL TALKS WITH THAI MINISTER

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Mar 85 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 22.

The visiting Foreign Minister of Thailand, Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, talked of his country's abiding cultural and spiritual links with India; the land of Lord Buddha, during his meetings with the President, Mr. Zail Singh, the Vice-President, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, to stress the point that the two countries had much more in common than was realised by many people who took a superficial view of their differing perceptions at times.

But in the course of his political discussions with the Chairman of the Policy Planning Committee, Mr. G. Parthasarathi, the two sides took different positions on Kampuchea, although India fully endorsed the proposal of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) for the creation of a "zone of peace, freedom and neutrality".

India's stand: Explaining the Indian Position, Mr. Parthasarathi stressed that India was firmly committed to a solution of South-East Asian problems in accordance with the Declaration of the last non-aligned summit conference.

"We believe that the States in the region themselves ought to undertake a dialogue which could lead to a de-escalation of tension, and the establishment of durable peace and stability in the area. This can obviously be facilitated by the elimination of the involvement of all foreign forces and threats of intervention in the region by outside powers", he said.

Despite these sharp differences over Kampuchea, the talks went off very well with both sides stressing a mutuality of interest to increase their trade and consolidate the historical links between the two peoples.

The Thai Foreign Minister maintained, in his speech at the official dinner given in his honour, that lasting peace in South-East Asia could be established only through a "total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea and the restoration of the right of self-determination to all Kampuchean people."

"As a matter of principle, we support the inalienable right of the legitimate Government of democratic Kampuchea, led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, a founding member of the non-aligned movement, to resist the occupation of Kampuchea by Vietnam," he said.

India praised: The Thai Foreign Minister was quite eloquent in his tributes to India for upholding the cause of the developing countries and striving hard to bring about a North-South dialogue for an equitable international economic relations.

Though India and Thailand belong to the Asian family of nations, with very close cultural, spiritual and historical association, they did not have much political contact in recent times. An effort is now being made to establish closer contact despite their differing perceptions on some issues.

The Thai Foreign Minister's visit takes place in this context, and India hopes that it would pave the way for more frequent and mutually beneficial exchanges on bilateral, regional and international issues.

INDIA

HOME MINISTER ANSWERS MP'S QUESTIONS ON SPY CASE

14 Mar Lok Sabha Discussion

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Mar 85 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 14 (PTI)--The home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, today accepted in the Lok Sabha that some foreign nations did play a part in the recently busted espionage ring, but declined to specify the foreign agencies or diplomats involved in the case.

Replying to a calling attention motion on the recent espionage activities, tabled by Mr Braj Mohan Mohanty (Cong) and others, he said it would not be proper to name the agencies or diplomats in the interest of "our good relations with the foreign countries."

Mr Chavan said it was also difficult to say if "CIA or Russian agency or some other agency was involved" in the espionage activity. It was also difficult for investigating agencies to establish if the information was passed from the recipient country to other countries.

Others who tabled the motion were: Mr Vijay Kumar Yadav and Mrs Geeta Mukherjee (bota-CPI) and Mr Harish Rawat (Cont).

Replying to Mrs Mukherjee, the home minister said the former cabinet secretary had nothing to do with espionage activity. He was an officer having a distinguished record.

Earlier, the government did not agree to the opposition demand for converting the calling attention motion into a general discussion.

Mr Chavan informed the house that the investigations so far have revealed the existence of a well-organised conspiracy, trading information about the security of the country.

Mr Chavan disclosed that so far statements of 120 witnesses had been recorded by the investigating agencies. Investigations conducted have resulted in sufficient evidence to prosecute all the accused persons.

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Of 18 persons arrested so far, 13 of them were serving government employees and one is a retired government servant, he added.

As soon as the question hour was over, Mr Madhu Dnadavate of the Janata Party rose to say that espionage activity was too serious a matter to be limited to a discussion as a calling attention motion which would limit participation to just the five listed in the motion.

Mr K.P. Unnikrishnan (Cong-S), pointed out to the speaker that on three occasions he had himself allowed conversion of calling attention motions into adjournment motions.

The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi who was present in the house, said that there might be precedents, but it had to be seen whether by enlarging the scope of the discussion the interest of the country would not be harmed.

Further Remarks on 15 Mar

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Home Minister S.B. Chavan told the Rajya Sabha on Friday that there was no link between the assassination of Indira Gandhi and the recently unearthed espionage ring. Mr Chavan's categorical statement came in response to a question by CPI-M member K. Mohanan during a call-attention motion on the subject.

The espionage network began as an operation for collecting commercial information and later branched out into areas having direct relevance to the security of the country, Mr Chavan said. He assured the House no one found involved in this kind of activity would be let off.

"The investigations would soon be brought to a successful conclusion," he said while asking members not to press for details on the case as that would hamper investigations.

Asked if the Government was planning to set down a code of conduct for officials working in sensitive departments the Minister said that formulating such a code was difficult as "ours is an open society." He, however, hoped that officials would impose self-discipline and exercise discretion while meeting or accepting hospitality from industrialists and others.

A committee has been constituted to streamline security procedures, in particular, and to go into the treatment and handling of all classified information, the minister said. He rejected a suggestion that only petty officials have so far been found guilty. "We are not interested in involving anyone who has no connection with this case," he added.

The Government would not show any discrimination in dealing with foreign countries whose diplomats have been found involved in the espionage ring, Mr Chavan told CPI member Chaturanan Mishra who had asked if certain countries found involved could be declared "unfriendly." "The fault lies with our officials, so we cannot go this length," the Minister said.

Regarding the press publication of in camera proceedings of the espionage case, Mr Chavan said that it was not a 'leakage.' "It was given," he said, but declined to disclose who had done so.

Earlier, opposition members attacked the Government for the manner in which it was conducting the investigations into the case. What was most distressing, some members felt, was the absence of any moral responsibility on the part of the Government even after a leakage of vital information of such magnitude had come to light.

Members also wondered why certain embassy officials have been in the country for many years when normally a diplomat held one posting for three to five years only.

Mr K. Mohanan (CPI-M) and Mr V. Gopalasami (DMK) questioned the wisdom of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi exonerating Dr P.C. Alexander, former principal secretary in his secretariat, even while investigations were going on. The Home Minister, however, told them that since there was not a shred of evidence against Dr Alexander, Mr Gandhi was perfectly justified in exonerating him.

Mr S.S. Vaghela (BJP) who initiated the discussion, quoted from a Bombay magazine to drive home the point that some top RAW officials had managed to settle down abroad.

Mr Chaturanan Mishra (CPI) regretted that attempts were being made to tarnish the image of India's friends in the name of espionage. The Government should tell the nation about the foreign powers involved in spying.

CSO: 4600/1451

INDIA

MINISTER ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF STEEL COUNCIL

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, February 20--The Union minister for steel, mines and coal, Mr Vasant Sathe, announced here today that a national council on steel was being set up to provide the much needed boost to the sagging steel sector.

Addressing a press conference on the conclusion of the two-day round table conference on steel, Mr Sathe said that it had also been decided to set up five action groups to deal with the implementation of strategies to revitalise the steel industry.

Mr Sathe said the national council would act as an advisory body to the ministry on framing strategies for meeting the demand for steel and it would also lay down priorities regarding investment and technological innovations.

The council, which would meet twice a year, would also advise on issues like development of the steel market and methodology for assessing and stimulating steel demand in rural areas for quick development.

Elaborating on the role of the five action groups, Mr Sathe said they would deal, among other things, with future investment priorities, issue of modernisation expansion of existing units and establishment of new units, improving operations in the short-term, market development, labour and personnel and project and contract management.

Strict Accountability

The minister said that a proper monitoring system was being set up for ensuring strict accountability at all levels. The five groups, he said, would draw up an action plan on short-term issues like increasing operational efficiency of plants, improving availability of steel in the country and developing greater responsiveness to consumer demand and strengthening infrastructural facilities like power, raw materials and transport.

The groups' long-term plan would cover ensuring future investments in a manner so as to achieve at the lowest cost the growth of the industry to meet projected national requirements up to the year 2000.

The minister said the groups would be composed of industry representatives of the government departments concerned and experts outside the government.

The two-day deliberations of the round table clearly brought out the fact that there was a need for technological upgradation in the Indian steel industry, particularly in the public sector. It was identified that such investments in the past had not kept pace with technological advances in the world making it possible to produce steel cheaply after investment in the existing plants.

It was emphasised that before investments in major technological upgradations were made, it was necessary to identify the main constraints and effect improvement in the working of the steel plants so as to bring them back to production at rated capacities.

The main constraints identified include deterioration in raw-material quality, inadequate attention to maintenance and technological obsolescence.

CSO: 4600/1440

INDIA

STUDY SHOWS RUPEE APPRECIATION OVER 1979-1983

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 Feb 85 p 10

[Text]

BOMBAY, February 23: The Indian rupee has appreciated in real terms against practically every currency except the US dollar, in many cases by very substantial margins, during the period 1979-1983.

According to a study on "the nominal and real effective exchange rate of the Indian rupee 1971-1983" published in the 'Occasional papers' of the RBI, Mr. Vijay Joshi has sought to assess the nominal and real effective exchange rate of the Indian rupee during the period.

In terms of 'preferred index' the nominal effective exchange rate (NER) of the rupee depreciated by about 20 per cent between 1971 and 1975 and by a further eight per cent between 1975 and 1979. In 1983, it was roughly at the 1979 level, with minor variations in the interim period. The real effective exchange rate (RER) of the rupee depreciated by 11.5 per cent between 1971 and 1975 and by a further 17 per cent between 1975 and 1979. From 1979 to 1983, however, it showed a sharp 15 per cent appreciation.

The study points out that after breaking down this real effective appreciation of the rupee from 1979 to 1983, into the rupee's real appreciation against individual currency, the above rather dramatic picture has emerged.

It is pointed out that the exchange rate is a major weapon of economic policy in adjusting to the balance of payment constraint. Of the two concepts — nominal effective exchange rate and real effective exchange rate — the RER is the more fundamental concept from the point of view of balance payments adjustments.

The study does not attempt to evaluate the past exchange rate policy, but stresses that formulating future exchange rate policy is an important, complex task, which would require a prior assessment of the path of the optimum real effective exchange rate (ORER). The considerations bearing on the estimation of the ORER in India and on the choice between the NER and internal price policy as instruments in changing the RER have also been discussed.

CSO: 4600/1443

7 May 1985

INDIA

RAJASTHAN POLICE SHOOTING OF RAJAH TOPPLES STATE HEAD

Madras THE HINDU in English 24 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, February 23.

The Rajasthan Chief Minister Mr. S. C. Mathur, who has resigned was directed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in his capacity as Congress (I) president, to step down immediately accepting moral responsibility for the death of Raja Man Singh and his two associates shot dead by the police.

The Prime Minister took this step when he came to know that there was no encounter as claimed by the police and that the three victims who were unarmed were shot yesterday in broad daylight in the busy market centre of Deeg town in Bharatpur district.

In asking him to resign, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi did not hold Mr. Mathur personally responsible for this shocking behaviour of the police, who had evidently acted under someone else's orders to teach the prince and his two associates a lesson for daring to damage the Chief Minister's helicopter and destroy the dais from where he was to address an election meeting in the town.

But he felt that some new standards of accountability should be set to make those at the helm accept constructive responsibility for the misconduct of their overzealous minions.

The Centre did not want to place Rajasthan under President's rule during the next 10 or 12 days left for the completion of the Assembly poll before the formation of the next Government. The Prime Minister who had been keeping in close touch with the situation from his campaign tour approved the choice of the Labour Minister, Mr. Heera Lal Devpura, as an interim Chief Minister to fill the void after the acceptance of Mr. Mathur's resignation.

As the Congress (I) president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was understandably more concerned about the wider political fall-out of this tragic episode in what is called the Jat belt extending from Rajasthan through Punjab and Haryana to Eastern Uttar Pradesh, where his party had to face the wrath of this martial class for the killing of this popular prince. The former Hindu ruling families of Bharatpur and Dholpur in Rajasthan and the erstwhile Sikh rulers of Patiala, Nabha and Jind belong to the Jat community, a part of which

is settled in the Western U.P. where Mr. Charan Singh has his main political base.

The Congress (I) leaders are worried that the party might suffer a setback in the Jat areas of Western U.P. and Rajasthan in the wake of this shocking event. The Opposition parties have already started exploiting the inflamed feelings of the people in Bharatpur district to hold the Congress (I) Government of Rajasthan responsible for the killing of Raja Man Singh and his two associates by the police.

Berth for Mathur: The Prime Minister had been thinking of inducting Mr. Mathur, who has had a fairly clean image, along with two other Chief Ministers, Mr. Solanki of Gujarat and Mr. J. B. Patnaik of Orissa, into the Central Cabinet after the current Assembly elections. It remains to be seen whether he would still like to provide a berth for Mr. Mathur at the Centre after this distressing episode.

One of the sad things that has happened in the wake of Indira Gandhi's assassination, is that in a foolish attempt to transform India into a bullet-proof society, both the Central and State Governments have given the police everywhere a free hand to deal sternly with any security threats.

It has been left to the police themselves to determine whether a patently illegal act like damaging a Chief Minister's helicopter or pulling down the dais from which he was due to address an election meeting could be considered as posing a threat to his life.

It cannot be explained otherwise how the Rajasthan police could have registered a case of attempted murder against Raja Man Singh, a locally popular scion of the former ruling family of Bharatpur, implying that he intended to endanger the Chief Minister by taking the law into his hands in this inexcusable manner, even if he felt provoked by the pulling down of his election posters and burning of his family flag allegedly by Congress (I) workers campaigning against him.

And it is this perverse logic that emboldened the police, or whoever else asked them to do so, to kill this prince and his two associates in cold blood in the centre of the town as though they were displaying their power to the people.

CSO: 4600/1444

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT PLANS FOR PRODUCTION OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT

MIG-29 Production at Nasik

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] New Delhi, March 14--The licensed production of the latest Soviet fighter aircraft, MIG-29, is to be undertaken in phases at the Nasik-based factory of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. Sophisticated spares of the aircraft are also proposed to be manufactured at Nasik.

India has acquired the MIG-27 and the licensed production of the aircraft at Nasik has begun with the assembly of the aircraft. It is proposed to go in for a full-fledged production of the MIG-27 soon. The same exercise is likely to be followed in the case of MIG-29. The assembly of the aircraft will precede its full-fledged production. India is likely to receive the MIG-29 by the middle of the year.

India will be the first country to acquire the MIG-29, an aircraft which has not yet been deployed by the Soviet Air Force. The aircraft has not been given to member countries of the Warsaw Pact so far. A principal factor which has prompted India to go in for the latest Soviet aircraft is the acquisition of the U.S. F-14 aircraft by Pakistan. The Soviet Union understood India's urgent need in view of the induction of the F-16 in Pakistan. The MIG-29 is more lethal and powerful than the F-16.

It is in this context that the visit of a high-level Soviet delegation, led by Mr I.S. Silaev, Minister for Aviation, announced by the Defence Ministry for the first time today, assumes significance. The delegation visited the Nasik as well as Bangalore factories of HAL. Mr Silaev studied the facilities at the National Aeronautics laboratory and the aeronautical development establishment in Bangalore.

Though the delegation began its seven-day visit in March, the Defence Ministry issued a cryptic release here today to announce that "a working protocol was signed reiterating continued cooperation between the two countries in the field of aviation industry." It said that during the visit "matters of mutual interest" were discussed but did not say that Mr Silaev also met the Defence Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao.

It is believed that the delegation examined the facilities at Nasik and Bangalore to see whether the proposed assembly of the MIG-29 and subsequent full-fledged manufacture of the aircraft could be undertaken there. The delegation also had detailed talks on the present assembly of MIG-27s at Nasik as also its proposed manufacture.

Indian-Designed Fighter Planes

JPRS-NEA-85-064
7 May 1985

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Feb 85 p 8

[Text]

The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) for the air force will be entirely designed and built by Indians with only "limited consultancy and technologies from some foreign companies", according to a spokesman of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), the apex body coordinating the project, reports PTL.

The LCA project—the first combat aircraft programme in two decades—received its final clearance and top priority by the Government after the 31 January meeting that reviewed the activities of the project.

According to the current schedule the prototype LCA will be ready in 1990 and enter series production in 1994.

The project that was estimated to cost Rs 565 crore at 1982 price levels would cost between Rs 1200 and Rs 1500 crore in 1990, the spokesman said. About 10 per cent of the development cost would be paid to foreign consultants and technology transfer.

The spokesman said that work on LCA actually began in 1982 in response to an air staff target issued by the air force.

Currently feasibility studies are going on and models are being tested at the wind tunnel in National Aeronautical Laboratory (NAL) in Bangalore to arrive at optimum aircraft configuration.

The feasibility study will be followed up by the project definition phase for two years to make refinements in the configuration and define the equipment and subsystems that go into it.

The project will employ 300 scientists and engineers during the definition phase and 2000 at its peak.

The single engined LCA will weigh about six tonnes and include the most modern technologies such as fly-by-wire and multi-mode radar for tracking several objects at the same time.

While design details are not available, it is stated that its performance would be better than F-16, and its specifications not significantly different from those laid down by the United States for its aircraft of the 1990s.

The spokesman said the LCA project was bound to face some problems considering that it is the first combat aircraft development programme in two decades. But these problems will be solved.

The HF-24 developed in India 20 years ago had an excellent airframe but was not ushered into service as no suitable engine was available.

He said it was proposed to seek foreign consultancy and buy selective technology gap that had developed due to absence of an aircraft programme in India since the completion of HF-24.

The British Aerospace Corporation, the Dornier and MBB of Germany are the major contenders for consultancy and technology transfer for the LCA project.

The spokesman said that while negotiations are going on with potential consultants, no final decision has been taken in this regard and it is most likely there will be more than one consultant.

The spokesman said that foreign consultancy and technology were inescapable for a project of the magnitude of LCA which is sought to be developed in a short time of 10 years.

Carbon fibre and lithium aluminium alloys which are necessary for building a light aircraft are among the technologies to be purchased apart from those relating to navigation and radar.

According to the spokesman, the LCAs would initially use an imported engine "as it is technically and economically prudent to develop an aircraft with a proven engine."

The engine selected for LCA (RB-199) is the same which powers the tornado combat aircraft of the British, German and Italian airforce.

The spokesman said it was however the intention to replace the imported engine with GTX-35 now under development at the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) in Bangalore.

Under the LCA project the Government has pumped Rs 80 crore into GTRE for improving its earlier GTX engine for use in LCA. The engine with an after burner will produce a thrust of 15,000 pounds.

One of the GTX engines in the GTRE test bed has already reached 84 per cent of the rated capacity. GTRE Director, Dr Arun Prasad, said that 10 prototype GTX-35 will be made by 1990 and "we are extremely confident."

Apart from GTRE and NAL, the aeronautical development establishment, the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), and the Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (ERDE) are involved in the LCA project that is expected to give a boost to India's sagging aircraft industry and build self-reliance.

HAL which is ultimately responsible for producing the aircraft will along with LRDE develop the multi-mode radar for LCA with consultancy from abroad.

The entire LCA project is coordinated by ADA that was registered as a society in June 1984 with Defence Minister as President, Finance Minister as Secretary, Defence Adviser V S Arunachalam as President of the governing board, and Dr S R Valluri, former NAL Director, as Chief Executive.

The spokesman said that ADA will "fund, manage, and monitor the LCA project and establish firm basis for technology development, absorption of imported technologies, strengthen the infrastructure by obtaining modern and sophisticated facilities and train additional manpower.

He said that the concept of ADA and LCA were crucial for the country's major venture into obtaining self-reliance in the important area of high science and technology relevant to national defence.

CSO: 4600/1442

INDIA

PLANS TO EXPAND ANTARCTIC STUDY TOLD

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 21 Mar 85 p 4

[Text]

New Delhi, March 20 (PTI): The major thrust of the Department of Ocean Development (DOD) during 1985-86 will be on Antarctica research, deep sea mining and ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) besides another expedition to Antarctica. The department has been allotted Rs 28.90 crores (Plan) and Rs 21 crores (non-Plan) in the 1985-86 Budget.

The fifth expedition to Antarctica will be organised during the coming financial year for continuing the scientific research programme. A sum of Rs 9 crores had been sanctioned for the expedition.

The department will soon place an order for an ice-breaker, costing Rs 40 crores, for expeditions to Antarctica.

Detailed surveys in the "prime pioneer area" in central Indian Ocean will be continued for polymetallic nodules. A provision of Rs 5.75 crores has been made for acquiring under water technology in the form of manned submersibles for promoting scientific research.

A provision of Rs 75 lakhs has been made for a project on ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC). The project will be implemented by the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, in

collaboration with Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL), Engineers India limited and other government agencies.

India has an excellent OTEC potential and some of the best sites in the world are situated off the Indian mainland and near the Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The total OTEC potential is estimated to be around 50,000 MW which is about 150 per cent of the present total installed power generating capacity of the country.

A provision of Rs 25 lakhs had been kept to promote international cooperation in the field of ocean science through the international sea bed authority. A total of Rs 30 lakhs will be paid to the authority as registration fee by the country as a "pioneer investor."

Besides, a provision of Rs 85 lakhs has been made for administrative support and infrastructure for the department, exhibitions and fairs and for international cooperation.

For the development of better monitoring and information system on the various projects, the budgetary classification has been changed from 1985-86 to indicate the provision separately for various schemes and their components.

CSO: 4600/1461

INDIA

BRIEFS

NEW VIETNAMESE ENVOY--The new ambassador of Vietnam, Mr Hoang Anh Tuan, presented his credentials to President Zail Singh at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi on Thursday, reports PTI. Welcoming the ambassador, Mr Zail Singh reaffirmed India's resolve to share its experience and to assist in the task of economic reconstruction undertaken by Vietnam. Earlier, while presenting his credentials, Mr Tuan said the multi-faceted cooperation between India and Vietnam had been developing on sound lines and had become "an important factor in the maintenance of peace and security in the region." [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Mar 85 p 6]

MEGHALAYA MINISTERS RESIGN--Shillong, March 13--Two Meghalaya Ministers, Mr Salseng Marak and Mr Nihon Ksih, whose complicity has been alleged in a Rs 17-crore scandal in the State Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department have resigned. A Raj Bhavan communique tonight said their resignations had been accepted by the Governor. Mr Marak and Mr Ksih had held Cabinet and Minister of State ranks in the PHE Department when the swindle relating to the financial year 1983-84 was unearthed last year. Following Opposition pressure the Chief Minister, Mr Williamson Sangma, took over the department himself, giving Mr Marak the charge of Supply and Mr Ksih of Forest. The resignations follow acceptance of an inquiry committee report by the Cabinet on February 18. The report has not yet been made public.--UNI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Mar 85 p 9]

INDO-HUNGARIAN TRADE--New Delhi, March 18--The Indo-Hungarian Joint Business Council has set the target of trade turnover at Rs 100 crores for 1985 and a 20 percent increase every year in the next five years. The turnover in 1983 was Rs 92.3 crores. The Council which met here today also agreed to work out specific proposals for setting up industries in India's export processing zones, third country cooperation for joint industrial ventures and construction projects in West Asia, Africa and other parts of the world. The FICCI president, Mr Ramakrishna Bajaj, in his welcome address, referred to Hungarian expertise in agriculture, power generation, automobiles, machine-building, etc. and said Indian enterprises would like to cooperate in most of these areas with their counterparts in Hungary. The chairman of Indian Section of the Council, Mr Raghu Mody, noted India's adverse trade balance of Rs 58.7 crores in 1983 and called for broadening the base of commodity exchanges between India and Hungary. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Mar 85 p 9]

7 May 1985

IRAN

KABUL CONDEMNS IRANIAN SUPPORT TO MUJAHIDIN

GF181024 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Summary from poor reception] The people of Afghanistan from different ethnic backgrounds are all living in equality. They take pride in building a new society in their revolutionary country. In order to ensure "peace and tranquility in the country, all Afghan people are cleaning the sacred [word indistinct] of our motherland from the filthy existence of brutal counterrevolutionary bands toted from abroad." They are defending the April Revolution, independence and national sovereignty and territorial integrity of their homeland.

They are fighting against the aggressions of imperialism and reactionaries. In this situation the comments of the "ring leaders" of the counterrevolutionary bands on forging unity among the bands seems to be the last desperate attempt for the continuation of their "disgraceful life."

This time this call is being "raised by the mass media of reactionary authorities of the ruling regime in Iran. For example, one of the mercenary elements on the payroll of the ruling reactionaries of Iran" said in an interview with Iranian television that there was an alliance among some of these bands. He spelled out the conditions under which forces could join with these bands.

This comes at a time when Afghan refugees in Iran have become "fed up with the brutal" oppression of the reactionary rulers in Iran "who use them as cannon fodder in the war with Iraq.

"They are also fed up with the bloody crimes committed by these reactionary suckers who prevent their return to their homeland, and when on the other hand the ring leaders of counterrevolutionary bands have totally lost their prestige and credibility among the Afghan fugitives and when the dog-fight between them over a bone has intensified.

"Under such conditions the reactionary ruling circles of Iran have taken the initiative in their own hands" by disseminating a forgery among the Afghan fugitives in order to use their force "for their own ominous aims."

They want to conceal the weakness of the Afghan bandits by spreading the news about the so-called coalition of counterrevolutionary bands. The reactionary ruling circles of Iran want to further control the Afghan counterrevolutionaries. "Abusing the sacred religion of Islam, they intend to introduce themselves as the saviors of the religion." Under this mask they want to further escalate their own adventurous feats and "interventionist policies in the internal affairs of our country.

"The patriotic Afghan people have specifically chosen their path 7 years ago for building a new society in the country." And any intervention cannot undermine their efforts. "Neither the Iranian dictators nor the so-called collection of these mercenaries change these homicidal counterrevolutionary bands from their sure annihilation.

"This is the order of the day and the demand of the Afghan people. The people of Afghanistan strongly condemn such futile efforts, which are nothing but flagrant intervention in the internal affairs of the country and will physically fight against them."

CSO: 4600/389

IRAN

MAJLIS DEPUTY SAYS WAR WILL CONTINUE

GF171710 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Coinciding with the anniversary of the martyrdom of the 7th imam of the shi'ites, Imam Musa Kazem, a ceremony was held to mark the 40th day anniversary of the martyrdom of nine reconstruction crusade volunteers from Abadan. This ceremony was held yesterday afternoon [16 April] in an Ahvaz mosque.

According to the correspondent of the Central News Unit Hojjat-ol Eslam Yazdi, deputy speaker of the Majlis, Musavi-Jaza'eri the Imam's representative and the Friday Imam of Ahvaz; families of martyrs plus provincial officials; a group of volunteers from the Reconstruction Crusade of Abadan; employees of revolutionary organizations plus people from various walks of life from the steadfast city of Ahvaz took part in this glorious ceremony.

Hojjat-ol Eslam Yazdi gave a speech. He first paid his condolences on the martyrdom of Imam Musa Kazem. Then he said: our war is one in defense of Islam and ourselves. He stressed that until the aggressor Saddam, this war criminal, is not condemned by international organizations and punished accordingly, this war will continue until final victory and until the just demands of the Islamic Republic are met.

He then talked about the arms race between the superpowers which he said was threatening world peace. He commented on the fact that the Zionist regime of Iraq is not considering and has no respect for international regulations. He said: there is no guarantee that even if there is a peace settlement with the aggressor regime of Iraq, that the Ba'athist rulers of Iraq will honor it.

The Imam has predicted that even if this war continues for 20 years, we will stand firm and this people with all its sacrifices will be victorious.

The deputy speaker of the Majlis then spoke of the plots of the world aggressors against the Islamic revolution in order to stifle its growth and spread. He said: the world aggressors do not wish Islam to grow in the region because they are petrified of Islam and they know that Islam will awaken the people and would cause the toppling of their puppet regimes.

Hojjat-ol Eslam Yazdi then commented on the Iraqi attacks against Iranian civilian areas. He said Iran's retaliatory actions are in accordance with the rulings of the Koran. He concluded by mentioning the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Musa Kazem and said: all the torture and imprisonment that this innocent Imam suffered during the reign of the cruel Abbasid dynasty rule, was because he obeyed and carried out the laws of the Lord and because he invited the people to obey the laws of Islam.

CSO: 4640/521

IRAN

CONTINUATION OF IRAN-IRAQ WAR IS A CRIME

TA241956 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Unattributed commentary: "The War's Prolongation is an Irreparable Crime"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Another effort is being made to end the destructive war that is annihilating Iran. According to Sharifuddin Pirzada, secretary general of the organization of Islamic countries, the leaders of these countries will gather in Jidda, the capital of Saudi Arabia, for a conference.

The people of Iran and Iraq, as well as all the world's peaceloving and progressive human beings, had hoped that the visit by the UN Secretary General to Tehran and Baghdad would aid the cause of ending the war and the conclusion of a just peace between Iran and Iraq. After these visits the UN secretary general expressed optimism to some extent, but unfortunately the war continues and reports indicate that the Islamic rulers are again deploying large forces on the Iran-Iraq border. Therefore, one should expect further innumerable and countless victims.

The secretary general of the Arab league countries says that it is a cause of regret that these military preparations are coupled with a propaganda tumult by Iran's leaders who are saying that ending the war is possible only by resorting to force and by continuing the war until victory.

This sort of attitude toward the issue of the futile war is evidence that the Islamic leadership's policy is prepared and implemented from outside. It is clear that from the very outset of the war, U.S. imperialism has been trying to exploit it in order to carry out its ominous hegemonistic designs in the Middle East and Persian Gulf regions. The people of Iran and Iraq are fed up with this war, but in order to escalate its military presence in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf regions, U.S. imperialism is taking the great advantage, and is trying to establish its total domination over the region, stifle national freedom movements, make Iran and other countries of the region dependent on it, and seize the oil resources of Iran and the Arab countries.

The theoreticians of U.S. imperialism have concocted a so-called new theory named "war for mineral resources" for this neo-colonialist policy of theirs. The most rabid warmongering Washington circles believe that the era of such

wars has arrived. The Rabid Deployment Forces can be utilized, and alliances from among Arab reactionary countries can be formed. Meanwhile, they say frankly that the Iran-Iraq war creates the most suitable conditions for implementing these aims. U.S. statesmen and planners of America's war strategy are of the opinion that the prolongation of the Iran-Iraq war will cause the participation of other states in the war, and will finally lead to the division of the Arab world and the Islamic world into two hostile camps, as a result of which the Arab countries will forget the Israeli danger and international imperialism, and Zionism will be able to solve the problems of the Middle East to their own benefit.

International imperialism and Zionism are very satisfied over war between and the undermining of two fraternal countries, because they hope that the people of these two countries as well as other states of the region will seek their assistance in order to reconstruct the war's devastations. The destructions stemming from the war are truly great and frightening. For example, Iraq needs at least 5 years in order to bring the level of its oil production to that of the pre-war era. The destructions of the war in our homeland are much more than Iraq's. Many industrial institutions have been ruined, and national revenue has declined to half its pre-war era. Despite this, the Islamic rulers every day pour \$11 million into the pockets of U.S., British, German and Japanese armament industries, and millions of dollars into their own pockets in order to continue the war. However, all these devastations are very trivial compared to the lives of the hundreds of thousands of Iran's children who are being sacrificed for the interests of the imperialists and the mullahs ruling in our homeland. Yet the thirst of the bloodsucking leaders of the fascist-theocratic Islamic regime has still not been alleviated, and will remain so as long as they lean on the seat of power. One must put an end to the rule of the reactionary mullahs in order to terminate this war, to end so much bloodshed, and to terminate all calamities and miseries.

CSO: 4640/519

IRAN

REVOLUTION GUARDS REPORTEDLY ATTACK MARIVAN CITIZENS

GF150955 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Apr 85

[Text] In the context of savagery practiced by the Khomeyni regime last week, personnel of the 8th brigade of the revolution guards stationed at Marivan attacked the village of (Goizeh Kurreh). They arrested 100 inhabitants of this border village and transferred them to the prison in Marivan. The Radio Nejat-e Iran correspondent reports the people of the (Goizeh Kurreh) village lately have been protesting against the occupation of their lands and destruction of their houses and have sent letters to the Tehran government, the provincial administration, and the military commanders in the region. The revolution guards, who have been destroying the housing belonging to the defenseless villagers, in defense of their savage acts have claimed that it was planned that a number of camps housing the revolution guards would be built at these sites.

Our correspondent adds that Rasul Tahmaseb, an official of the Marivan revolution guards, once visited the village and threatened the inhabitants, saying that if they did not stop their complaints he would put all of them in prison. Last week while an angry protest by the inhabitants of (Goizeh Kurreh) continued, the threat by this revolution guard, a lackey of the regime, was carried out. At midnight when the Kordish inhabitants of this border village were asleep a battalion of this anti-people corps surrounded the village. The soldiers of the battalion flushed out the villagers from their houses and arrested 100 of them and transferred them to Marivan.

Our correspondent concludes by saying that false charges have been made against these villagers. The regime officials plan to charge these defenseless but pugnacious inhabitants of (Goizeh Kurreh) before the court for narcotic offences at Razaiyeh and put them under further pressures. Meanwhile, many families on the western border of the country, who are very angry at this incident, have decided to migrate to the neighboring country in exile. Under the sensitive conditions existing today, such an incident will no doubt bring adverse results.

CSO: 4640/520

NEPAL

NEPAL-INDIA RELATIONS SEEN ENTERING 'A NEW PHASE'

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 4 Apr 85 p 2

[Text]

We note with considerable satisfaction that Nepal-India relations are apparently entering a new and very welcome phase. This is suggested from a number of recent indicators on the Nepal-India relations front, including those connected with the visit of the new Indian Foreign Secretary Mr Romesh Bhandari who was received in audience by His Majesty the King as a special envoy of the Indian Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Apart from the disclosure that an invitation from the Indian Prime Minister to visit India at a convenient time was handed over to His Majesty the King on the occasion, it is surely significant that His Majesty the King, according to Mr Bhandari, "fully endorsed the Prime Minister's desire that the countries in the South Asian region should live together in an atmosphere of understanding and harmony and with the desire of having constructive cooperation amongst each other bilaterally and multilaterally."

Coming as this did at a time when, in another gesture, His Majesty the King inaugurated an exhibition in Kathmandu organised by the Indian Trade Fair Authority and following as it did two-rounds of every "substantial and useful" talks between the Nepalese and Indian sides during the Bhandari visit, a very palpable sense of improvement in the atmospherics of Nepal-India relations is inescapable. That the exhibition represents not only some of the more visible areas in which the two neighbouring countries can cooperate in a

meaningful way — as was indeed pointed out by Commerce Minister Mr. Parsunarayan Choudhary at the inaugural function — but stands out as eloquent testimony to the great strides that our southern neighbour has taken in various industrial and technological fields are particularly noteworthy. The seminars and discussions that have been planned between various relevant groups currently are no less notable for they can be expected to carry forward the main purpose of the exhibition which is to cement further Nepal-India trade ties and economic cooperation.

Similarly, we also note that not only was considerable territory covered in the two rounds of official talks between Nepal and India but that the discussions were held in a visibly friendly and candid atmosphere. More specifically in this context one must take into due account that the talks apparently focussed on bilateral and regional matters. Regionally, they included such important topics as the SARC forum, the SARC foreign ministers' meeting in Bhutan next month and the proposed SARC summit scheduled to be held in Dhaka sometime towards the end of this year. Bilaterally, they covered such varied and key subjects as the harnessing of Nepal's water resources, promotion of trade, measures to avoid double taxation, joint industrial ventures, the setting up of a joint commission between them and Nepal's Zone of Peace proposal that, in the words of our Foreign Secretary, would receive a "sympathetic hearing" from India.

Though we must emphasise that Nepal-India relations had not been under any strain in the recent past, it is now becoming increasingly clear that a new element of dynamism and change may soon be injected into that relationship. And though a really dramatic turn can admittedly be expected only after a political meeting at the highest levels of the two countries, current trends happily now indicate that such a much anticipated meeting itself may not be very far off.

NEPAL

KING PRESIDES OVER RAJ SABHA SESSION

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 6 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

His Majesty the King presided over the concluding session of the third four-yearly meeting of the Raj Sabha Friday.

At the meeting His Majesty the King, while commenting on the report concerning the basic national policy presented by Vice Chairman of Raj Sabha and Chairman of Raj Sabha Standing Committee Bhupalman Singh Karki, said that necessary changes will be made in the basic national policy.

His Majesty the King also thanked the Raj Sabha members from various districts for their cooperation and attendance at the four-day meeting.

Earlier, Mr. Bhupalman Singh Karki had read out and presented to His Majesty the King the report concerning basic national policy prepared after three days of extensive deliberation.

Her Majesty the Queen also attended the session Friday.

Her Majesty the Queen Mother and other members of the Royal Family were also present on the occasion.

Earlier on arrival at the venue of the meeting at Nepal Rastra Bank central office, Baluwatar, Their Majesties the King and Queen were accorded warm welcome by Raj Sabha Standing Committee Chairman Bhupalman Singh Karki.

The Prime Minister, Chief Justice, Rastriya Panchayat Chairman, former Prime Ministers Matrika Prasad Koirala, Tanka Prasad Acharya, Surya Bahadur Thapa, Kirti Nidhi Bista, Nagendra Prasad Rijal and Dr. Tulsi Giri were also present at the meeting.

Proposing a vote of thanks at the meeting, Raj Sabha Standing Committee Chairman Karki said that all the Raj Sabha members, highly inspired as they were by the unremitting efforts of His Majesty for finding the ways to achieve all round development of Nepal and Nepalese people, shared the view that His Majesty propounded the basic

national policy to expedite the country to march toward a definite goal.

As regards the task of reviewing those important points in the context of time and situation the Raj Sabha members did their level best to make necessary changes and improvement in them in keeping with His Majesty's noble wishes and presented the same before His Majesty the King, he said.

On the occasion Chairman Karki thanked former prime ministers, who are convenors of the five committees of Raj Sabha, and their members for providing valuable suggestions and advice for reviewing such important topic as the basic national policy within the prescribed period of time.

Thereafter, as commanded by His Majesty the King, Raj Sabha Secretary Birendra Bahadur Shah informed that the third four-yearly meeting of Raj Sabha came to an end. (RSS)

NEPAL

COMMENTARY DISCUSSES RAJ SABHA SESSION

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 7 Apr 85 p 2

[Text]

Though full details of what transpired at the recently concluded third four-yearly meeting of the Raj Sabha have not been made public, enough has been reported to underline that it has indeed been a most meaningful exercise. In fact, apart from the very weighty and comprehensive character of the composition of this important constitutional organ which makes any such meeting a notable event, attention is directed here to a number of suggestive elements in this regard. Foremost is that its first and concluding sessions were chaired by His Majesty the King. Secondly, there was His Majesty the King's specific command that the meeting hold detailed discussions on 'basic national policy', this being done by, among other things, the setting up of five committees — mobilisation of political means committee, social, cultural and religious committee, economic resources mobilisation committee, foreign affairs committee and a defence committee — headed by five former Prime Ministers. Thirdly, although the meeting of the Raj Sabha has not been called to discuss any emergency situation, that it comes not long before the nation goes to the polls for the second time after the Third Amendment of the Constitution and the National Referendum of 1980 clearly invests it with a meaning all its own. Finally, of course, there is this very significant disclosure: that at the concluding session, after being presented with the final report on a review of 'basic national policy', His Majesty the King

declared that necessary changes would be made in the 'basic national policy'.

But, if it now remains to be seen how and when such changes will actually be made, what can be stated with full confidence is that in whatever direction these may take place in the days or weeks ahead they should be in the overall or fundamental national interest. This is plainly suggested not merely by the unique composition of the Raj Sabha — including Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal Family, heads of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial organs of state, former Prime Ministers, heads of other constitutional bodies and a large number of distinguished or eminent personalities from various walks of Nepalese life — but also by the calm, consensual and deliberative manner in which discussions are held in this eminent and elevated body. Clearly, in the all-important effort to guide the destiny of the nation, the Raj Sabha has been enormously inspired by His Majesty the King whose single-minded commitment to the national interest bears no need for repetition here, whether this relates to speeding balanced, all-round socio-economic development across the nation, to projecting a brilliant image of Nepal and the Nepalese people to the world outside or, for that matter, to safeguarding Nepal's precious historical legacy of independence and sovereignty.

What may perhaps need be underlined here is the fact under His Majesty the King the Raj Sabha has not only been vastly revitalised, as far as its composition goes, but also in terms of its functions, a shining example of which is the just concluded meeting which reviewed over three full days the whole gamut of issues which collectively constitute this

Kingdom's 'basic national policy'. Adequate note in this regard, in our view, should also be taken of the careful thought that has obviously gone into the delineation of 'basic national policy' into the five separate heads under which they were discussed — an imaginative division which could perhaps also be applied to other nationally significant policy making bodies. With the rest of the nation we thus now eagerly await the promised changes in the 'basic national policy'.

GSO: 4600/390

7 May 1985

NEPAL

PRIME MINISTER TALKS ABOUT DECENTRALIZATION

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 12 Apr 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Prime Minister Loken-dra Bahadur Chand has said the success of decentralisation programme squarely depends on our effort, perseverance and dedication.

Declaring open the seminar on decentralisation at Harihar Bhavan, Pulchowk, Thursday morning, Prime Minister Chand referring to the efforts being made for the last two years for the implementation of the programme pointed out that the concept of decentralisation has found strong mention in the country's Constitution, directive principles of Panchayat polity and basic national policy.

The seminar sponsored jointly by the Panchayat and Local Development Ministry and Nepal Administrative Staff College is being attended by secretaries of His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Chand said the seventh five-year plan has been formulated with implementation of the decentralisation programme from the very beginning of the plan period and therefore it is our duty to

give the concept a concrete shape for the attainment of objectives therein.

His Majesty's Government is committed to implement the decentralisation programme designed in accordance with the directives issued by His Majesty the King from time to time, he said, urging all concerned to spare no effort to make the programme, which will come into force from Sravan first this year, a success.

Necessary act and rules have already been enacted so that the plan could be formulated this fiscal year and implemented vigorously from the next fiscal year.

It is in this context that the seminar should deliberate seriously to identify what still needs to be done, what obstacles have arisen and what ways have been found to overcome them, he noted, and hoped that the exercise will prove to be beneficial in so far as solid suggestions coming from it are concerned.

He said the seminar, being attended by those holding important responsi-

bilities in the country's administrative set up assumes special significance in the present circumstances and added that the participants are expected to provide examples for others by remaining true to their duties and responsibilities as far as their contribution to effective and successful implementation of the decentralisation programme is concerned.

The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the decentralisation programme will be instrumental not only in identifying the people's expectations and sentiments but also in encouraging plans and projects capable of fulfilling the people's needs in all fronts.

He asked the secretaries to bear this important fact in mind and act accordingly.

On the occasion, Minister for Panchayat and Local Development Jog Meher Shrestha said decentralisation is not an easy proposition nor is it a trifling matter to hand over to others the powers rested in oneself, adding that decentralisation reflecting the wishes of the people is now before us as a result of the directives issued from time to time by His Majesty the King to the effect that the wishes of the people are the wishes of the Crown.

Decentralisation is not confined to any one ministry but indeed covers all serving under His Majesty's Government, he said.

That is why we should all be committed to provide the local panchayats the authority, facilities and guidance needed to expedite the basic activities at village and district level being implemented for the wellbeing of the people, under one's respective ministry, he said.

Pointing out that many of the ministries have already initiated steps in this direction, he said implementing decentralisations is meant for strengthening the local panchayats which are the foundation of the system and not for creating any disturbance at the center.

The problem in past years of development programmes being duplicated and triplicated should not occur in future, he said and added that we should all strive to make the Seventh Plan a new chapter in Nepal's national development.

While there are those who doubt that the local panchayats will have the capacity to bear the burden that will fall upon them when the decentralisation act is implemented, this system has encouraged and brought utter strength in its democratic

values and efforts, he said adding that decentralisation is a main step to which HMG is committed and all units should live up to their responsibility in this respect.

He also stressed that it is our group's responsibility to make the local panchayats capable of meeting the responsibility that decentralisation will bring upon them.

On the occasion Assistant Minister for Panchayat and Local Development Nirajan Thapa said that decentralisation should be implemented in accordance with the noble wish of His Majesty the King and the local panchayats made capable of carrying out development work in response to the needs of the local people.

The entire population should be informed about the significance of decentralisation, he said.

Analysing the efforts made in the past in connection with decentralisation and the existing arrangements he said decentralisation will give the people's representatives the opportunity to do the people's work.

Nepal Administrative Staff College executive director Goraksha Bahadur Nuche Pradhan threw light on the significance of decentralisation. (RSS)

NEPAL

DISTRICT LEVEL POLITICAL CAMPS PLANNED

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 8 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

District level political camps will be launched in seven districts of the Kingdom from the third week of Chaitra (mid-April/mid-May).

The camps are being organised by the Panchayat Policy and Evaluation committee under its programme of organising such camps in one district each of all 14 zones of the country within the current fiscal year.

The district level political camps will be organised in Jhapa, Tanahu, Nawalparasi, Kailali, and Kanchanpur, Baglung, and Jumla under the convenorships of Narendra Bahadur Chand, Ranadhir Subba, Dr. Rishikesh Upadhyaya, Mrs. Rukmani Nepali, Somnath Bastola and Nara Bahadur Budhathoki respectively.

Similar camps had

been organised in seven districts of different zones three months ago.

The camps are being run with the objective of highlighting the fundamental tenets of the partyless Panchayat System, providing political guidelines, evaluating the district level development works and enhancing mutual understanding among pancha workers.

The teams constituted under the convensorship of the Panchayat Policy and Evaluation Committee members to run the political camps includes pancha and lecturers.

The political camps will be participated by pradhan panchas, district level office bearers of all class organisations, district panchayat office-bearers and other pancha workers. (RSS)

NEPAL

SAUDI ARABIA TO PROVIDE LOAN FOR BAGMATI IRRIGATION PROJECT

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 4 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

The Saudi Fund For Development has agreed to provide Nepal a soft loan of 8.31 million US dollars for financing the Bagmati Irrigation Project (BIP).

The Project which is estimated to cost more than 83.7 million U.S. dollar will benefit 150,000 farm families of 3 districts of Narayani and Janakpur zones on completion.

Following the completion of feasibility study of the BIP, HMG started it with its own limited resources. The loan to be given by Saudi Fund will help considerably the completion of the Project.

Under the Bagmati Irrigation Project a diversion barrage and two head regulators will be constructed.

Similarly construction of canal systems to irrigate 54,000 Ha. in Rautahat and Bara districts and 14,000 Ha in Sarlahi district will be undertaken with the assistance.

Saudi Arabia's soft loan for the Bagmati Irrigation Project is considered valuable in the context of increasing Saudi assistance to this country's projects.

Ever since diplomatic relations between Nepal and Saudi Arabia were established in 1977, the two countries have come closer and the friendly relations between the two Kingdoms have been greatly strengthened.

Nepal has at times lauded the role played by Saudi Arabia in the development of the Third World countries through the Saudi Fund for Development and through regional and international financial institutions.

This country has noted with gratitude the food assistance provided by the Government of Saudi Arabia in the past and the cash grant for agricultural development.

Saudi Arabia has taken into consideration the priority given by Nepal in surface transport and development of water resources in forwarding loan to this country.

The first loan Nepal received from Saudi Arabia was for the construction of the Kohalpur-Mahakali section of the Mahendra Highway that helps this country to complete a major surface transport infrastructure.

The Saudi Fund for Development has provided a loan of Saudi Riyal 86 million to help HMG implement 66 Megawatt Marsyangdi Hydroelectric Power Project, located in Anboo Khairini, 110 Km. west of Kathmandu. The total cost of the project is 323 million U.S. dollar.

The Fund has also provided Saudi Riyal 106 million for the construction of 109 Km. segment of the 204 Km. long Kohalpur-Mahakali section of the Mahendra Rajmarg under an agreement signed May 11, 1983.

The loan so far extended to Nepal by Saudi Arabia carries a loan charge of 2 percent per annum and is repayable in 25 years including a grace period of five years.

Deputy vice-chairman of the Saudi Fund for Development Dr. Saleh H. Alhumaidan who visited Nepal November 1984 in connection with signing of a loan agreement for Marsyangdi Project had said we will continue to provide support for the development programmes in Nepal. (RSS)

CSO: 4600/390

NEPAL

TRIAL PRODUCTION OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZER BEGINS

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 7 Apr 85 pp 1, 6

[Text]

Production of chemical fertiliser of calcium nitrogen has begun on experimental basis for the first time in Nepal.

The fertiliser is being produced at Mohantar near Gajuri in Dhading district under the Agriculture Development Bank's catering small chemical fertiliser producing programme in Dhading Nuwakot and Dang districts in the first phase.

Installation of the equipment in the water turbine of Shyam Rice Mill was done in the last three months.

Such fertiliser is produced only in the United States at present.

Equipment for the chemical fertiliser developed in the United States will be

produced by technicians of the country at local workshops for the second phase once the first experimental production is successfully completed.

The Government of the United States has met the expenditure required for the experimental production of the fertiliser.

One litre of fertiliser which will be produced in liquid form is to contain 20 grams of nitrogen, according to technicians concerned.

Production of the nitrogen will follow on experimental basis as part of the first phase works at Balgaon of Nuwakot district and Halwar of Dang district.

At present two American technicians, two

technicians of the turbine producing factory and one technician of Agriculture Development Bank have been engaged in the production of this fertiliser.

Only Nepali technicians will be employed in producing fertiliser in Nuwakot and Dang, according to the chairman and general manager of Agriculture Development Bank Srikrishna Upadhyaya.

If this project turns out successful, import of chemical fertiliser will be reduced and foreign exchange will be saved, according to knowledgeable source.

An agreement to run this programme was signed in May, 1984 between Nepal and the United States. (RSS)

CSO: 4600/390

NEPAL

ESTIMATES OF GRAIN PRODUCTION REPORTED

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 10 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

The total grain production in the country in the current financial year is expected to be approximately 4.1 million tonnes, slightly down from 4.3 millions recorded last year.

According to a forecast of the Department of Food and Agricultural Marketing Services, this works out to a per capita consumption of 154 kilograms, even after discounting the amount set aside for export.

The per capita figure is slightly less than last year's figure of 155 kilos.

The reduction is attributed to the marginal fall in the total grain production forecast for this year.

Among the major crops this year, the production of paddy is expected to be 2.7 million tonnes, summer maize 750 thousand and millet 114 thousand tonnes,

according to the preliminary estimate of the Department.

Similarly, the production of wheat is forecast to be 540 thousand metric tonnes.

Although the per capita grain this year has been forecast around 154 kg, there is regional imbalance in this respect.

But determining the exact volume and nature of imbalance is difficult, said the Director General of the Department, Mr. Pushpa Ram Bhakta Mathema.

However, he said, as the faulty distribution system is the main reason behind such an imbalance, it can be considerably reduced by improving the distribution system.

The final estimate for the food grain production is expected to be available in about a month's time.

NEPAL

INDIA-NEPAL RAILWAY LINE EXTENSION TALKS END

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 12 Apr 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The proposal to extend the metre gauge railway line from Raxaul, India to Birganj, Nepal has reached the final stage.

The talks between Nepalese and Indian officials to extend the railway line to six kilometres ended Wednesday.

Project report in this connection will be prepared between four to six weeks. Works on the project will be completed between six to nine months after HMG accepts the proposal.

The extension of railway line from Raxaul

(India) to Birganj (Nepal) will facilitate import of goods from India or via India as the imported items will directly land in Nepal instead of Raxaul in India.

At the talks the Indian side was led by Additional Chief Engineer of North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur R.C.S. Khichi.

Members in the team included Mr. Ratanlal and Mr. Ghanshyam of Indian railway and the First Secretary (economic) of the Indian Embassy B.P. Srivastav. (RSS)

CSO: 4600/391

NEPAL

NEPAL STANDARD TIME MADE FASTER BY 5 MINUTES

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 10 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

His Majesty's Government has decided to make Nepal's standard time faster by five minutes.

According to the Land Reforms Ministry, the new standard time will come into effect from April 13, beginning of the Nepalese New Year.

The new standard time which is 5 hours and 45 minutes ahead of Greenwich mean time (GMT) has been based on 86 degree and 15 minute east longitude. Nepal's standard time until now is 5 hours and 40 minutes ahead of GMT.

The new standard time has been determined to

make Nepal's time compatible with international times and easily practicable as the difference of 15 minutes, 30 minutes and 45 minutes are more practicable and easy for addition and subtraction with standard times of other countries.

Another consideration for effecting this change in time is based on our tradition to think that Nepal is the country of God Shiva and Goddess Parvati. The 86 degree and 15 minute longitude passes from near the Gauri Shanker peak, the peak which stands for Shiva and Parvati, the spokesman said. (RSS)

CSO: 4600/391

PAKISTAN

POLICY ON AFGHANISTAN CRITICIZED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 85 p 8

[Text] Karachi, April 2--Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, chief of the defunct JUP, today called for a drastic review of the present regime's policy on Afghanistan dubbing it as an "appendage to American global interest" fraught with dangerous consequences for the security of the country.

Speaking at "Meet the Press" programme of the Karachi Press Club here this afternoon, he said the people of Pakistan had all the sympathy with the displaced Afghan refugees but for them Pakistan itself could not be displaced and uprooted and its security interests could not be sacrificed at the "altar of the United States" which according to him was "the enemy of Islam."

Criticising the government's foreign policy, the Maulana said instead of pursuing a clear non-aligned policy the present regime was acting in defence of "American interests" rather than defending our own national interest.

He took strong exception to recent official pronouncements on the question of Afghanistan and ridiculed the government's refusal to talk to the Kabul Government directly. According to him it was strange that Pakistan and Kabul Governments were directly represented by their respective Charge d'Affaires and Consuls-General at Islamabad, Kabul, Peshawar, Jalalabad, Kandhar and Quetta and dealing directly with each other's governments and receiving and handing over protest notes directly almost on every "alter-nate day" and yet the authorities at Islamabad would not hold talks directly with the Karmal government.

He said if any jehad has to be launched it should be first of all for the liberation of Baitul Maqadas, the "Qibla-e-Awwal" and for liquidating Israel's persistent aggression against the Islamic world fully backed by the United States.

He strongly criticised "a party" which was not prepared to accept the Kashmir war as "Jehad" and which is now clamouring for "Jehad" in Afghanistan perhaps because "they are a beneficiary from the aid being doled out to Afghan refugees."

He referred to the huge CIA budget for Afghan refugees and said who could believe that we are not aligned to a superpower thousands of miles away. He warned that if the present foreign policy was not revised in our own national interests it would lead to serious consequences for the security of Pakistan.

Criticising the recent amendments in the 1973 Constitution the Maulana said "these were effected to deprive the Parliament and the Prime Minister of their powers and their representative character and concentrate all powers in the hands of an individual much against the provisions of the 1973 Constitution." According to him had these been introduced before the elections many people would have boycotted the polls as the JUP and MRD did.

He demanded immediate institution of a judicial inquiry commission comprising retired judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts to probe into what he described as atrocities committed against the people of Pakistan during the last eight years.

The JUP leader referred to President Zia's action in exonerating members of the National and Provincial assemblies for spending beyond the ceiling on their election and demanded that all official functionaries and members of the National and Provincial Assemblies should submit statements regarding their income, wealth and properties.

He strongly depreciated the claim that the present regime had introduced Islam and said Islam and Martial Law were a negation of each other. He said even the "Objectives' Resolution" made part of the Constitution was not justifiable as the country continued to be deprived of democracy, fundamental rights, independence of the judiciary and freedom of expression and association.

He said he had no quarrel with Mr Junejo or members of the National Assembly but they had to prove by their actions that they were genuine representatives of the people.

Replying to a question he said the JUP was not opposed to a dialogue with Mr Junejo provided he could create a congenial atmosphere by releasing all political prisoners.

He mentioned in particular the names of Mairaj Mohammad Khan, Mahmudul Huq Usmani, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, and Rasool Bakhsh Palejo and asked "for whose benefit are they being detained in jails for years together and for what crime?"

CSO: 4600/381

PAKISTAN

PPP LEADER SAID 'NOT AVERSE TO DIALOGUE' WITH REGIME

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 85 p 8

[Article by Tariq Butt]

[Text] Rawalpindi, April 2--The Secretary General of the defunct PPP, retired General Tikka Khan has hinted at the possibility of parleys between the MRD and the Government to relieve the nation of political uncertainty if all prominent politicians are released.

He declared that it was up to the regime to create such a congenial atmosphere and allow the MRD Action Committee to convene its meeting to enable it to give serious thought to the question of dialogue. Tikka Khan rebutted a report appearing in a local Urdu daily that some MRD leaders had been approached by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo for negotiations.

Addressing his first news conference after three months house arrest at his Satellite Town residence today, Gen Tikka Khan said the MRD does not accept the results of the February polls and consequently the newly constituted Parliament. He alleged official meddling in the elections of Senators.

Tikka Khan believed that the Assemblies were devoid of any real authority and were bound to obey the President's commands. The basic fibre of the 1973 Constitution, he said, had been totally altered by the amendments which had given the President 'unbridled powers.'

The General, however, hoped that the Parliament members, who claimed to be representing the masses, would fulfil the promises they made to the voters. He urged them to struggle for the immediate lifting of Martial Law and restoration of the 1973 Constitution in its original form, if they really believed in the supremacy of the democratic process.

The PPP leader demanded the removal of all curbs on the Press. He condemned the perpetuation of pre-censorship on the daily 'Amn' Karachi, and suggested that the authorities should punish newspapers for printing baseless and factually wrong news and not for criticism of its policies.

About the Prime Minister's invitation to the self-exiled political leaders to return home and serve the masses, Tikka Khan said a bare invitation was not enough; they should also be assured that no action would be taken against them if they came back. He feared that these leaders would be taken into custody as soon as they arrived in Pakistan.

The former General fully endorsed the demands of the POF workers and asked the management to create a congenial atmosphere for a dialogue to solve the workers' problems. The closure of the country's biggest defence installation was against the greater interest of Pakistan.

Answering a question about the continued strike at the Quaid-e-Azam University, Tikka Khan said the 'unwise and irrational policies' of the Government were the main factor behind the resentment prevailing among the students, teachers and employees alike.

Gen Tikka said the PPP Central Committee had not yet decided whether it would take part in AJK elections. Anybody taking a contrary decision would be expelled from the party.

CSO: 4600/381

PAKISTAN

PRIME MINISTER SAYS ASSEMBLY TO DECIDE REVIVAL OF PARTIES

Karachi DAWN in English 5 Apr 85 p 20

[Text]

MIRPURKHAS, April 4: Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo reiterated today that the National Assembly would decide all major issues, including the issue of the revival of political parties.

Talking to newsmen before leaving for Lahore after a visit to Mirpurkhas and Sanghar districts, he asserted that Parliament being sovereign could take up any matter of vital interest.

When asked who would raise these issues, Mr. Junejo said "We will ourselves do it if we will consider it necessary."

Asked whether there was any positive response to his offer for political dialogue from the Opposition, he said "our door is open for negotiations."

Replying to a question whether his Government enjoyed the cooperation of people, he said there was no such thing as non-cooperation from people and their elected representatives were now in a position to solve their problems.

He said: "What is to be watched is that how the new Government will fare as far as the expectations of the people are concerned."

On release of political detainees, he said that gradually everybody would be released.

He debunked the claim of a politician about the number of detainees (1,000) in the country, and said he (the politician) was free to say anything.

About Pir Pagara's forecast that the general election would be held after about two years (in 1987), he

said: "Let me first meet Pir Pagara."

About objections raised by lawyers against amendments to the Constitution, he said Parliament was the proper forum to discuss such issues.

He said due share would be given to all provinces in the Federal Cabinet.

He said this while his attention was drawn to a report appearing in a newspaper today.

Population flight

Asked as to how he proposed to remove the concentrations in major cities of the rural population, he said the proper planning and development of villages including electrification, was the proper solution to check flight of rural population to the cities.

Efforts would be made to develop infrastructure facilities and build up industrial base in small cities to check the population flight from rural areas to urban centres.

He hoped that when there would be enough job and income opportunities available in rural areas, people would not shift to urban areas in search of employment.

Replying to a question, Mr. Junejo said some shortage of irrigation water in certain areas this year was a rare phenomenon, and added that the Irrigation Department was taking all possible measures to ensure judicious distribution of irrigation water.

PAKISTAN

LIFE SKETCH OF SIND CHIEF MINISTER PROVIDED

Karachi DAWN in English 7 Apr 85 p 2

[Text]

KARACHI, April 6: Following is the text of life sketch of Mr. Justice Syed Ghous Ali Shah, the Chief Minister of Sind.

Born on 1-1-1934 in Mori, a well-known village on the bank of the West Feeder Canal in the former state of Khairpur, presently District Khairpur, Sind. His family had a long stading tradition of spiritual leadership. He got his primary as well as religious education in his Village Mori, till 1944, when he joined Naz High School, Khairpur, from where he passed his Matriculation in 1951. He graduated from S.M. College, Karachi, in 1955, and passed his LL.B. from S.M. Law College, Karachi, in 1957. He was associated with social work for the students' community and was General Secretary of the Khairpur State Students Federation for considerable time and later Secretary-General of All Sind Students Organisation which position he relinquished in 1957 when he left Karachi to practise at Khairpur.

He was enrolled as a pleader in 1957 and started practice at Khairpur in 1957. He was enrolled as an Advocate of the High Court in 1963 and of the Supreme Court in 1977.

He was elected President of the District Bar Association, Khairpur, for a record term of six years i.e. 1969 to 1974. He worked as Honorary Lecturer in the Khairpur Law College from 1970 till he joined the Bench. Elected as a member of

Pakistan Bar Council in 1974 and its Vice-Chairman in 1975. Elected as Chairman of the executive committee of Pakistan Bar Council and also member of its Enrolment Committee of the Advocates of the Supreme Court and Legal Education Committee. He was appointed member of the Board of Governors for Public School, Sukkur and also member of the Board of Governors for Law Colleges in Sind.

Again elected member of Pakistan Bar Council in June, 1979 and also its Vice-Chairman for the second term, an honour which has never been conferred on any other Member of Bar, todate, which he relinquished on joining the Bench. He was associated with the Pakistan Muslim League and was Chairman of the Re-organising Committee of the Zonal Muslim League, Sind.

In his public life, Mr. Justice Syed Ghous Ali Shah, has always voiced grievances of the people irrespective of any distinction and has participated actively in their welfare programmes.

He was elevated to the Bench of the High Court of Sind in 1979.

He was appointed Minister in the Sind Cabinet on 14-5-1981 and held the portfolios of Education, Culture, Sports and Law till 4-4-1984. He was again appointed in the Sind Cabinet on 1-6-1984 and held the portfolios of Local Government, Rural Development and Law till his appointment as Chief Minister of Sind on 6-4-1985.

PAKISTAN

PROTEST STAGED AT RECEPTION FOR ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Apr 85 p 2

[Text]

MULTAN, April 8: A group of lawyers staged a protest demonstration in the premises of the Multan Bench of the Lahore High Court on Sunday, when Mr Fakhr Imam, the National Assembly Speaker, arrived in the Bar Room, to address a crowded House.

The protesters, over two dozen in number, raised slogans against martial law and the recently elected assemblies and demanded the restoration of unamended Constitution of 1973 and holding of fresh election under it.

They also shouted "Fakhr Imam Wapas Jao." It was the first protest against Mr Imam after his election to the office of the Speaker of the National Assembly on March 23 and that too in his hometown, Multan.

The protesters, however, dispersed after a few minutes of slogan-raising and the reception given in the honour of the Speaker by the High Court Bar Association, Multan, proceeded peacefully.

Later, in the evening, the leaders of the protesters addressed a Press conference and issued a warning to the Executive Committee of the Bar Association to refrain from pro-

viding its platform to non-representative persons.

They were Mr Taj Mohammad Langah, Secretary-General of the defunct Awami Jamhoori Party, Mr Mohammad Ramzan Khalid, Secretary, MRD, Multan and Chaudhry Pervaiz Aftab, a leader of the defunct PPP.

They claimed that over 70 lawyers of the High Court were with them in this protest. They informed newsmen that 35 members of the Bar Association, whose names were read out in the Press conference, had requisitioned an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association to consider the issue of inviting the Speaker of unrepresentative and unconstitutional National Assembly by the respectable institution of Bar Association. However, they stated the newly-elected Executive Committee of the Association did not pay any heed to the requisition.

They also alleged that the reception was held without any formal approval of the Executive Committee itself, which was now planning to legitimise the holding of reception through a backdated decision.

CSO: 4600/384

PAKISTAN

EXILED LEADER URGES MRD TO 'ESTABLISH LINKS WITH PEOPLE'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 85 p 1

[Article by Maleeha Lodhi]

[Text] London, April 2--Senior PPP leader Mumtaz Bhutto has warned that the MRD can become "redundant" if it merely relies on "issuing a few statements from Islamabad, Lahore and Peshawar" instead of establishing contacts with the masses. In an exclusive interview with "The Muslim" in London, Mr Bhutto stressed the need for a radical rethinking of MRD's strategy and objectives and underlined that it was "important for its survival that it should go to the people with valid issues."

In response to a question whether the time had now come for a fundamental reassessment of MRD's strategy, Mr Bhutto said: "As far as strategy is concerned the need for reappraisal has been there all along--what I have long been saying is that the basis of MRD's operation should be to establish links with the people and not just issue statements." According to him, while "on paper the MRD has existed for a long time, the corresponding organisational machinery never came into existence." The lack of organisational machinery never came into existence." The lack of organisational machinery, he said, was an important factor in the MRD's failure to mobilise the people.

Mr Bhutto said he believed the MRD was still viable and can yet play a major role "provided it establishes contact with the masses and goes to them with valid issues." However, he emphasised that it was not strategy alone that needed rethinking--a "reappraisal of objectives" was also necessary. He said, "simply talking about elections and the 1973 Constitution was never enough because these were not forceful enough issues--and especially now since both these issues have become a thing of the past." The "only issue that matters," he added, "is ending military rule and preventing its recurrence."

Mr Bhutto said that "the task before the MRD today--as in the past--is to mobilise the people." This task, he asserted, had not been fulfilled in the past.

When asked to spell out his stand towards the new Assembly, Mr Bhutto answered: "The fact that the Assembly has been elected and that a large number of people voted cannot be denied. The Assembly certainly cannot be ignored. But the important question is what the Assembly members will do as pressing and urgent issues face the representatives of the people." Elaborating further, he said, "if they live up to the expectations of the people, we will applaud them, but if they fail they will be no different from the nominated Shooras and provincial councils and will face the wrath of the people and fade into insignificance."

Commenting on Sindhi representatives elected to the National Assembly, Mr Bhutto said "We cannot dispute the choice of the people," but explained that "they have come in on a negative vote since people wanted to defeat the obvious government supporters." Mr Bhutto reiterated that while he respected "the verdict of the people, we and the nation will be waiting and watching to see what the Assembly members will do." However, he ruled out any chance of reconciliation between PPP defectors sitting in the Assemblies and the Party.

Asked for his assessment of Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo, Mr Bhutto described him as "a nice person" whom he knew well. Pointing to Mr Junejo's claim that he only accepted the Prime Ministership on the assurance that Martial Law will be lifted, Mr Bhutto said: "We will give him a short period of time, say two to three months. If Martial Law is lifted in that period, he will get full credit for it, but if it is not, the most honorable thing for him to do, as indeed for all the Assembly members, would be to resign and disassociate themselves entirely from the military government."

Mr Bhutto has recently joined a new front organisation consisting of political leaders belonging to the three minority provinces and has been elected Convener in Pakistan of this Sindhi-Baluch-Pashtun Front (SBPF). Mr Bhutto said he foresaw no problems in reconciling this office with his role as PPP leader since the SBPF is a front organisation and members do not have to leave their own parties to join this. But was there not a contradiction in that the SBPF's declared objective is the achievement of "a confederation where the constituent states are sovereign and autonomous, while the PPP's position on provincial autonomy is quite different? Mr Bhutto's answer was that "the PPP has not made its position clear," but he drew attention to Benazir Bhutto's statement, made at a Press conference last month, in which she said that the 1973 Constitution is now dead and that today there is nothing (except force) holding the component units of Pakistan together, and with the burial of the 1973 document, power had reverted to the provinces. Mr Bhutto explained that "confederation means a degree of decentralisation" and was only "a matter of detail" that can be worked out by the PPP. He stressed that confederation was now the only way to save Pakistan from disintegration, otherwise separatists will become more powerful.

Mr Bhutto is due to return to the country some time later this month.

CSO: 3600/381

PAKISTAN

MRD TO HAVE PERMANENT STRUCTURE

Karachi DAWN in English 5 Apr 85 p 20

[Text]

KARACHI, April 4: The Secretary-General of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD), Khwaja Khairuddin, has said the MRD is being converted into a permanent structure and an effective organisation, under one leadership.

Speaking at the 'Meet the Press' programme of Karachi Press Club on Thursday afternoon, he said the issue had come up for discussion at the Abbottabad meeting and almost all the MRD components agreed to suspend their individual political parties for a long period and function under one manifesto.

He said he would personally underscore the idea that at least six to seven parties in the alliance would not demand any seat in the Assemblies if it was also converted into an election alliance at an appropriate time. He said efforts were under way to motivate other political parties to join the MRD or to unite under a common political programme.

Khwaja Khairuddin was of the view that the country could not survive in the present circumstances if there were no fundamental changes in the social structure of society. He pledged to continue the struggle till the achievement of the MRD objectives.

He strongly defended the MRD decision to boycott the February elections as the leadership knew

that the Martial Law Government would not transfer power to elected representatives, which proved correct following the drastic amendments to the 1973 Constitution.

He said there was total supremacy of Martial Law over Islam, Shariat Court, Judiciary and legislature and the Press. He said MRD leaders knew that power would not be transferred to elected representatives if the MRD parties had won the poll. It could have created the post-1970 election situation in which the late Gen. Yahya Khan did not transfer power and the country itself was divided into two separate States, he added. The MRD leaders averted such a threat by not participating in the poll, leaving the field for others, he added.

Khwaja Khairuddin confirmed that he had met Provincial Governor prior to the MRD moot at Abbottabad, and added that the meeting with the Governor was inconclusive as he did not provide the draft for amending the 1973 Constitution.

If the Government had given the MRD leaders freedom which prevailed during the British rule, the situation in the country would have been very different, Khwaja Khairuddin said. He contended that a worst type of democratic Government was better than a best form of Martial Law government.

PAKISTAN

JI LEADER URGES MRD TO END CONFRONTATION

Karachi DAWN in English 5 Apr 85 p 20

[Text]

KARACHI, April 4: Qazi Hussain Ahmad, Secretary-General of the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami, has called upon the MRD to end the present policy of confrontation by accepting the results of the February elections.

Addressing MNAs, MPAs, municipal councillors and members of the provincial Shoorah of the Jamaat in Karachi on Thursday evening, he observed that people had rejected MRD policies by ignoring their call to boycott the February elections. On the contrary, he said, people had overwhelmingly participated in the elections.

He urged the MRD leaders to assist members of the Assemblies and Senate in strengthening the political institutions. In the absence of strong democratic institutions, there could be a chaos and a constitutional crisis in the country, he warned.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad urged the Government not to introduce fundamental changes in the 1973 Constitution, and to withdraw Martial Law. He said the Army could not serve the country if it remained engaged in its internal affairs, which should be left to the political parties.

He said the JI policy remained successful as it avoided confrontation with the Government with a view to encouraging the authorities to withdraw Martial Law.

He claimed that promises made to the Jamaat leadership were not fulfilled by the Government as the National and Provincial Assemblies were not given the requisite powers through amendments to the Constitution.

Qazi Saheb said legislators, belonging to the Jamaat, were working as a compact group in the Assemblies to present the party's viewpoints.

He also called upon the Government to lift curbs on activities of students and workers. He deplored the closure of the Quaid-i-Azam University and dissolution of its Senate.

Referring to the trouble in the Mahmand and Khyber Agencies of the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas, Qazi Hussain Ahmed criticised the use of force to settle disputes.

Later, Provincial Shoorah of the Jamaat went into session. It was being presided over by the Sind Amir, Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi.

CSO: 4600/382

PAKISTAN

MRD LEADER AGAIN PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST

Karachi DAWN in English 5 Apr 85 p 5

[Text]

MULTAN, April 4: A meeting of the central MRD, expected to be held in Lahore in the near future, is likely to be delayed as Syed Mohammad Kaswar Gardezi, acting convener of MRD and Secretary-General of the defunct Pakistan National Party, was again placed under house arrest at his residence here on Thursday.

Mr. Gardezi, who is ailing, was freed four days ago after being kept under house arrest for more than a month. A date for holding the meeting of the central MRD was to be fixed immediately after recovery of Mr. Gardezi and also the release of some more political leaders, according to a Press release.

When contacted by 'Dawn,' the provincial president of the defunct PNP and provincial MRD convener, Syed Willayet Hussain Gardezi, brother of Syed Kaswar Gardezi, condemned the latter's arrest and said that on one hand

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo had announced his willingness to hold negotiation with the MRD and other political leaders but, on the other, leaders were being kept under house arrest.

Mr. Willayet Gardezi said MRD leaders were ready to hold talks provided political detainees were freed and the Prime Minister proved that he had some powers in this regard.

The Punjab MRD convener reaffirmed that a meeting of provincial MRD was expected to be held in Lahore in the second week of this month provided circumstances permitted.

He said the Lahore meeting would be very important as it would be the first of its kind after the recent elections and "we have to reframe our policy." He added that "we have no grudge against anybody and the MRD struggle is based on principles."

CSO: 4600/382

PAKISTAN

LEADER SAYS MRD-REGIME DIALOGUE WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE

Karachi DAWN in English 8 Apr 85 p 2

[Text]

LAHORE, April 7: Chaudhry Muhammad Arshad, acting President of the (defunct) PDP, said here today, the MRD did not think Premier Junejo had enough authority, otherwise, negotiations with him could have been productive.

The constitutional amendments announced before Parliament could meet had reduced the status of the Prime Minister and centralised all powers in the President, he said at a Press conference.

The PDP leader was of the view that if Mr. Junejo thought he enjoyed enough power he, on his own initiative, could get the 1973 Constitution restored in its original shape, release political detenus and have Martial Law withdrawn.

Any such move by Premier Junejo would not only be welcome but also receive cooperation from the MRD, Chaudhry Arshad said.

Commenting on a statement by the new Prime Minister that his doors were open for negotiations with politicians, Chaudhry Arshad said that this could be considered as an invitation. However, he added, the MRD would continue its struggle for the realisation of its Four-point charter of demands.

Chaudhry Arshad said, the special committee set up by the MRD

at its Abbottabad session would meet during the next fortnight to consider ways and means to reactivate the alliance and chalk out a strategy for the realisation of its objectives. The PDP leader said, no member of any party in the MRD who contested the recent elections would be readmitted by his party.

Chaudhry Arshad said, the people returned to the assemblies in the recent elections could be said to have representative character but the MRD, he clarified, did not recognise the legitimacy of the manner in which they had been elected.

About the decisions of the PDP Central Working Committee meeting held here a couple of days back, the PDP leader said, it had supported the demands of the Railway workers and those of the Wah Ordnance Factory employees. It also endorsed the lawyers' demand for withdrawal of amendments made in the Pakistan Bar Councils Act and the Quaid-i-Azam University Act.

The meeting also demanded removal of curbs on the Press, restoration of powers of the judiciary, release of political detenus, stabilisation of price level and an end to loadshedding.

CSQ: 4600/384

PAKISTAN

MRD TO MEET SOON

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Apr 85 p 2

[Text1

MULTAN, April 8: The central committee of MRD is likely to meet very soon to discuss one item agenda — release of political prisoners.

This was stated by Syed Mohammad Kaswar Gardezi, the Acting Convener of MRD and General Secretary of the defunct Pakistan National Party, who was released on Monday after four days' detention.

Talking to *Dawn* this evening Mr Gardezi said, he would be contacting the leaders of different component parties of the MRD tomorrow to decide the date and place of the proposed meeting.

When asked whether the meeting would also consider the question of any possible dialogue with the Government, he said, there had been no proper initiative on the part of the government to hold any talks with the MRD. Therefore question of considering any such possibility does not arise.

Mr Gardezi said the central committee of the 11-party alliance would only meet to discuss the issue of an early release of political prisoners. A number of politicians

and workers belonging to various parties were rotting in jails and torture cells for years. The meeting would compile the particulars of all such prisoners and would draw a line of action to pressurise the Government for their release.

Earlier, Mr Gardezi in a statement demanded immediate release of all political prisoners.

Mr Gardezi said the Convener of MRD, Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo, is still detained at his own house while the Convener of MRD NWFP, Mr Abdul Lateef Afridi, is still languishing in prison and hundreds of activists are behind the bars.

He said Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Meraj Mohammad Khan and Mairaj Khalid, in spite of their bad health, are still under detention.

Besides, he said, the President of Mazdoor Kissan Party, Rao Suleman Khan, has been asked to furnish a security of two lakh rupees which he has refused. Mr Gardezi criticised this attitude on the part of the "so-called" elected Government.

CSO: 4600/384

PAKISTAN

ASGHAR KHAN SAYS JUNEJO SPEAKS 'ZIA'S LANGUAGE'

Karachi DAWN in English 8 Apr 85 p 10

[Text]

RAWALPINDI, April 7: The chairman, defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqalal Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan said today that the new leadership which has emerged after recent elections in the country will remain powerless, because the rulers seem to have no intention to give them power.

Mr Asghar Khan was speaking at "Meet-the-Press" programme organised at Rawalpindi Press Club by Ruj (Nawaz Raza Group).

The present state of uncertainty and unrest in the country, Mr. Asghar Khan said, also seemed to have no end, because of the policy of the regime which, he said, will remain unchanged in future.

Prime Minister Junejo, Mr. Asghar Khan said was speaking exactly the language and phrases which President Zia-ul-Haq dictated to him. The National crisis and unrest could not end by merely changing faces. The nation, Mr. Asghar Khan said, wanted armed forces to concentrate on borders and not on country's politics.

Answering about recent government offer to politicians for dialogue, Mr. Asghar Khan said, the rulers have chosen very insulting way to invite opposition leaders for talks by saying their "doors were open." MRD wants to hold talks

with Government on the basis of mutual respect, Mr. Asghar Khan said.

World's history, Mr. Asghar Khan said, showed that people had rejected any amendments in the constitutions made by persons other than genuine representatives. The 1973 Constitution, Mr. Asghar Khan said, needed some amendments, which only elected men could make.

The recent election in the country, he said, was neither fair nor free. "How could the nation accept such an election which was not participated by the veteran politicians? he asked.

The regime, he said, pushed in to jails leaders and workers before the election which, Mr. Asghar Khan said was a new "rigging" technique. The indefinite closure of the Quaid-i-Azam University and unrest among the workers in Pakistan Ordnance Factories was the result of inept policies, he said.

In Punjab alone over 7,000 industrial units were closed because of recent loadshedding which rendered 70,000 workers jobless, he said.

Mr. Asghar Khan also favoured the leaders of Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i-Fiqahi Jafria, who he said, were struggling for their rights.

CSO: 4600/384

7 May 1985

PAKISTAN

REFUGEES' RETURN SAID VITAL TO PAKISTAN'S SOLIDARITY

Karachi DAWN in English 5 Apr 85 p 5

[Text]

GUJRANWALA, April 4: Mr. Hanif Ramay, chief of the defunct Pakistan Musawat Party, has said that immediate return of more than three million Afghan refugees to their country is vital to the solidarity of Pakistan.

Addressing a meeting of his party workers at the residence of Mr. Zahid Mumtaz, president, PMP, Gujranwala, on Wednesday, he said Pakistan's foreign policy should be based on the motto of "friendship with all, malice to none." He criticised the present perceptions being tied to the sweet will of the US and said that was why the Afghan issue had defied any peaceful political settlement so far.

He called upon the Government to enter into direct talks with the Karmal regime, and argued as to why it could not be done when Charge d' Affaires and Consuls-

General of Pakistan and Afghanistan were performing normal diplomatic duties. Answering a question regarding Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, he said Russia was least concerned with Pakistan or Afghanistan. In fact, it wanted to keep a close watch over the Gulf oilfields in the presence of American forces stationed in the Indian Ocean.

Mr. Ramay suggested that, being a smaller country, we should stay at equal distance from both superpowers. He emphasised that his party was striving to improve the lot of the common man and ensure justice and 'rizq-i-halal' for down-trodden people. He strongly condemned the role of feudal lords who, according to him, had brought the country on the verge of ruination.

CSO: 4600/382

PAKISTAN

REFUGEES' LIVESTOCK SAID TO DAMAGE ECOLOGY

Karachi DAWN in English 5 Apr 85 Magazine p I

[Article by Zafar Samdani]

[Text]

While the whole world is aware of the over three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, very little is known about an equal number of another set of refugees — the livestock which migrated along with the owners.

The figure is not an exact head count as in the case of the owners but a guess-timate. Its approximate accuracy is, however, not to be doubted. The source for the general census of refugee-seeking livestock is the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, Brig. Retd. Saeed Azhar.

The addition of about three million heads of cattle, comprising sheep, cows, horses and camels is a burden on local resources, not an addition to them as one might be inclined to think.

"The refugees are given food. Not their cattle. There is no free fodder for them" informs Brig. Azhar. The animals consequently look after themselves but at a considerable cost to a variety of local resources.

They need pastures and water. Their uncontrolled grazing has continued since the day they arrived with the result that livestock in NWFP and Baluchistan has to share the existing pastures with their refugee brethren.

The same applies to water resources. In both provinces this has had a devastating effect. Pastures have been reduced to wasteland. And water resources, already quite scarce in Baluchistan, are being rapidly consumed and, according to assessments, further dwindling.

The impact may not become visible for some time but the level of water, already low in Baluchistan, should recede even deeper, because of the larger quantity now consumed.

The only aspect of the situation which may not be called negative is that the number of homeless livestock is static. There has been neither an increase in them nor a decrease, because if there is breeding, there is also the fact that they are slaughtered and eaten, the two processes just about keeping their count to a constant figure.

The bulk of Afghans, about two million, had arrived within the first two years after the Russian invasion and with them had reached their livestock, at that time a larger number than the owners.

Earlier refugees were from areas adjacent to Pakistani borders and could bring the animals along. Those migrating from areas deeper in western Afghanistan could not manage the animals on the lengthy, uncertain journey. Consequently, while the refugee population continued increasing, that of animals remained generally static.

While the animals are not given free fodder, they are nevertheless extended free health services. A total of fortythree veterinary centres have been established for the livestock from the trouble torn land across Pakistan's north-western border.

Twentyfive centres are mobile; eighteen established at different centres. NWFP has fifteen mobile and ten static veterinary centres while ten mobile and eight static centres are the share of Baluchistan.

Each unit has a staff of one veterinary officer, two livestock assistants and one helper. This is the minimum staff with a unit, though some have more vets and assistants working for them. Mobile units obviously need drivers, too.

The veterinary service for the visiting animals who are likely to remain in Pakistan for the foreseeable future annually costs Rs 8.3 million. The expenses are met from refugee funds comprising aid and donations.

The services serve a dual purpose, safeguarding against an outbreak of contagious disease and keeping animals in good health as well as ensure that breeding is not impure. So far, no disease has broken out in the refugee animals. The services include inoculation, treatment of diseases and maintenance of good health of the livestock.

The health care is over and above existing veterinary cover provided by the government to local livestock but also shared by the Afghan livestock whenever necessary.

This programme has been on for the last four years. Which means that the total spendings on the animals so far amount to Rs 33.20 million rupees.

They cover the entire animal companions of Afghan refugees and have produced satisfactory results. On the other count — damage to ecological wealth and pastures — there is no relief. The havoc animals are playing continues unabated.

Neither have damages to pastures and affect on water resources been estimated. But it is clear that a major effort and matching resources would be needed to restore the previous equilibrium.

The shaving of resources, particularly pastures owned by locals, has created social problems but fortunately it hasn't so far led to any serious conflict or even temporary eruption of tempers. Given the fiery temperaments of people involved and their intimacy with arms, one can call it a lucky break in a generally pressure-packed situation.

Most members of the Afghan livestock reached Pakistan in 1980 and 81. Afterwards, the arrivals were a mere tickle. But during the period of the initial, heavy inflow, a regular administrative structure and organisation for refugees did not exist. By the time it was created and took command of the situation tremendous damage had been inflicted on pasture and water resources.

PAKISTAN

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR: UNDERUTILIZATION DISCUSSED

Karachi DAWN in English 6 Apr 85 Business Supplement pp 1, IV

[Article by S.M. Ghayasuddin]

[Text]

WHILE there has been notable revival of industrial investment recently, the industries are facing the twin problem of low productivity and underutilisation of capacities.

Studies conducted on industrial capacity utilisation have revealed that some industries are working at as low as 50-60 per cent of their installed capacities. Textile, paper and board and engineering goods industries provide examples of such underutilisation.

A large number of external factors affect both productivity and production in an industrial unit but according to experts the same factor does not necessarily affect both.

Paradox

There is also a paradoxical situation in the industrial sector. While idle capacities continue to exist, the Industrial Investment Schedule for the Sixth Plan period has made substantial allocations for investment to create new capacities in the same industries.

Divergent views are, however, held by economists, planners, officials concerned with investments and representatives of industry and trade on the why and how of this problem.

The president of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Tariq Saeed is of the view that low capacity utilisation is

the direct result of such external factors as nationalisation of industries by the past government, non-availability of infrastructure, non-announcement of the much-awaited labour policy, and the tax structure of the federal, provincial and local authorities.

The Managing Director of the Investment Advisory Centre of Pakistan (IACP), Mr Reza H. Syed, feels that the performance of some unrepresentative units should have no reflection on other units in the same industrial sector.

For example, if a sugar or shoe factory in a far-flung area is not operating properly, this should not be allowed to mar the position of the entire industry and bring down the averages only for arithmetical convenience.

An economist and former official of trade organisations, Mr Agha M. Ghouse is of the opinion that in our industrial sector where the units are working, on the whole, at less than 60 per cent of installed capacity, no new units should be sanctioned.

Agreement

There is, however, agreement amongst the experts on one thing: there is lack of proper and up-to-date information, based on scientific studies. Absence of proper communication has led to this chaos, they believe and suggest that surveys should be conducted, at regular intervals, to determine the quantitative and qualitative as-

pects of production and productivity, and information should be disseminated to all concerned.

In this context, Mr Syed has suggested that the factors affecting production and productivity should be categorised as "internal" and "external" and their effect on each should be measured properly.

For example, if the labour is coming late to the factory due to lack of proper public transport facility, or is being absent due to ill health, or if there is much down time due to frequent power breakdown, these may be matters of serious concern to the government authorities.

On the other hand, if lack of proper placement of personnel, lack of proper training, unharmonious labour-management relations, etc., are factors affecting the working of a plant, then the management itself should redress these problems.

The IACP chief is of the view that this problem should be tackled at all levels — national, sectorial and individual unit, to harmonise the efforts needed to enhance production and productivity.

Mr Agha M. Ghouse suggests that the cause of low productivity and under-utilisation should be divided into three spheres, namely seasonal, temporary and structural.

He lays special emphasis on structural deficiencies in many industries. He advocates adherence to feasibility reports prepared for investors. He also maintains that productivity improvement is a managerial responsibility and disagrees with the criticism that our labour force is uncooperative or low-productive, especially when examples of both — the very efficient and inefficient — are available in every industrial sector.

Elucidating his viewpoint, Mr Ghouse said lack of proper recruitment of labour as well as professionals in the units becomes a drag on the improvement of productiv-

ity while the concept of professional management, tuned to measure productivity of labour and machine, is seldom observed even in large units.

He noted, however, that there were some good examples in textiles, packaging and engineering units where the level of productivity is quite high, comparable to world standards, just because the management technique has been of high standard.

Another important area which needs immediate attention, according to Mr Ghouse, is coordinating educational and training systems so that untrained workers could be replaced with fully motivated and trained workers on a national scale or provide them in-house training without financial hardship on the part of concerned unit.

According to him, tax incentives and other subsidies on a calculated basis should be provided to units which are giving proper training to their accountants, technical personnel and workers, both within the country and abroad.

Mr Ghouse emphasised that the productivity improvement should become a national effort instead of being a stray affair of some units.

Mr Tariq Saeed pointed out that according to one estimate there were about 186 sick industrial units in Sind alone, which were either partially or wholly closed.

According to the KCCI chief, Karachi based industries were generally operating at about 60 per cent of their installed capacity and there was urgent need for providing relief to them at least in terms of remission of land rent, education cess and social security contribution.

Identifying some of the causes which lead to underutilisation of industrial capacity, Mr Tariq Saeed said the nationalisation policy of the past government which was fol-

lowed by devaluation in May 1972 adversely affected the growth of industries in the private sector.

Another factor which contributed to the non-utilisation of fuller industrial capacity is the non-availability of infrastructure facilities, Mr Saeed said. While the problem of fuel adjustment charge is still unresolved, the Karachi-based industries are paying more fuel adjustment charge than the industries located in other parts of the country, he pointed out.

The government taxation structure, KCCI chief feels, has a bias towards revenue mobilisation and does not provide much support for savings, investment and capital formation. The rate of savings in Pakistan is as low as 7 per cent. Obviously, the 60 per cent highest income tax rate does not encourage capital formation and the process of BMR also receives a serious setback, he said.

Mr Saeed said that the eagerly awaited labour policy, envisaging new equation between the labour and the management, has not yet been announced while the application of Factory Act to establishments employing 10 workers, instead of 20 in the past, has also affected the proper utilisation of installed capacity.

He opined that multiplicity of taxes levied by federal, provincial and local governments has been a great source of un-utilised capacity.

According to an estimate, KCCI chief said, there were about 50 taxes which were levied by different government agencies and suggested that these taxes should be merged which were identical in nature and the number of taxes should also be reduced.

PAKISTAN

SHRINKING RESOURCES SAID TO PUT PRESSURE ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Karachi DAWN in English 6 Apr 85 Business Supplement pp 1, IV

[Article by Syed Mahdi Mustafa]

[Text]

THE Planning Commission's projections of the Gross Domestic Product's increase of 9.94 per cent during the current fiscal year, aided by growth rates of 12.6 per cent in the agricultural sector, of 11.5 per cent in the industrial sector and of 8.1 per cent in the services sector, now seems unduly optimistic in the light of the developments in the recent past.

The Planning Commission's assertion that even if some shortfall was caused in one sector, it would be made up by other sectors resulting in an average annual growth of 6.7 per cent during the first two years of the Sixth Plan does not seem to be easily realisable.

Weather conditions

Weather conditions may perhaps once again take their toll in the production of major crops, although not to the same extent as was experienced in 1983-84, when, according to the Planning Commission, the Agricultural sector recorded a decline of 6.2 per cent.

Although, we have harvested a record bumper crop of cotton, currently estimated at 5.8 million bales, the country does not seem to rigated areas. In Punjab alone, a shortfall of almost 15 to 20 per cent is currently being estimated.

Production of rice is once again be in a position to attain its 13 million tonnes production target of wheat.

Continued dry spell at the time of harvesting has affected the wheat crop adversely not only in the barani areas but also in the canal irrigated areas, although sugarcane production may be close to target.

In the industrial sector lack of power supply, because of lack of water, may disrupt the production process and the growth may be some what lower than the projected 11.5 per cent.

Even while giving the optimistic projections for the current fiscal year, the Planning Commission had conceded that the balance of payments position of the country was an area of "particular difficulty."

Exports and remittances were expected to show a shortfall of about \$ 600 million each in the first two years of the Sixth Plan compared to the Plan forecasts. It was hoped that this shortfall would be met to the extent of almost \$ 900 million by squeezing payments on account of imports, particularly in respect of POL and fertilisers in view of the fact that fertiliser production in the country had increased substantially and oil prices had eased in the international markets. This does not seem to be coming about.

Exports

Pakistan's exports, which had recorded an average annual growth of 17.2 per cent in 1978-83, recorded a growth of only 1.3 per cent in 1983-84 against 8.9 per cent in the preceding year. Imports, on the other hand, whose growth was contained at 16.3 per cent during the Fifth Plan period of 1978-83, had actually recorded an absolute decline of 4.8 per cent in 1982-83, but increased by 6.1 per cent in 1983-84.

According to the latest data available, exports, in rupee terms, have gone down by 2.5 per cent during July-February, 1984-85, over the corresponding period of the previous year, while imports have recorded a growth of 14.4 per cent during the first eight months of the current fiscal year over the corresponding period of the previous year.

For 1983-85, the Planning Commission expects exports to be down by 9.2 per cent, in dollar terms, against the Plan projections and imports by 6.3 per cent. In view of the rise that we have been recently experienced in import payments, it seems unlikely that the projected decline of 6.3 per cent in import payments in 1983-85 would take place.

According to the data released by the Planning Commission itself, exports in the first half of the current fiscal year, in dollar terms, have actually gone down by 14.3 per cent whereas imports, during the same period, have risen by 5.4 per cent.

The other important sector is that of remittances. Foreign remittances

which recorded an average annual growth of 20.3 per cent during the Fifth Plan period of 1978-83, declined in absolute terms by 1.1 per cent in 1983-84, after having risen by 27.7 per cent in 1982-83, the last year of the Fifth Plan.

According to the data released by the Planning Commission itself, foreign remittances show a decline of 13.9 per cent in the first five months of the current fiscal year. This contrasts sharply with the projected annual growths of 10 per cent in the volume of foreign remittances during the Sixth Plan period of 1983-88.

Although, the Planning Commission has made no projection of its own for 1984-85 fiscal year, it is currently being estimated that foreign remittances would not reach a level higher than that of about \$2.5 billion compared to just above 3.0 billion dollars in 1983-84.

Firm data is also not available in regard to the deficit on the services account. But considering the fact that in the last three fiscal years the deficit on the services account has been increasing by an average of \$100 million per annum to a level of \$714 million in 1983-84, it seems safe to assume that in 1984-85 our deficit on the services account may be in the region of \$ 800 to 825 million.

Current deficit

Our current deficit, which had deteriorated from \$517 million in 1982-83 to \$1,000 million in 1983-84, has been projected by the Planning Commission to reach a level of

\$1,200 million in 1984-85 against the Plan projection of \$1,089 million.

In view of the decline in exports, in the first half of the current fiscal year, and the rise in imports, it seems likely that our trade deficit would be significantly higher than last fiscal year's deficit of \$3.3 billion and may be in the region of about \$3.7 billion.

Coupled with the deficit of about \$800 million in the services account, we will have a net deficit of \$4,500 million, which will be offset to the extent of about \$2,500 million on account of remittances, leaving a net deficit of \$2000 million.

Even if some changes were to take place in the last few months of the current fiscal year, like the increased earnings through exports to raw cotton and import constraints, the deficit on the current account would in any case be not less than \$1,500 million, a level that the country had experienced in 1981-82.

Changes

From what has been said above, it clearly emerges that the balance of payments position is going to come under severe pressure in the current fiscal year and the severity would be greater than what has been projected by the Planning Commission.

Considering the fact that only about 19 per cent of the total aid disbursed is utilised by us with the remaining 91 per cent going for debt service payments, Pakistan's need to borrow from international markets may increase considerably in 1984-85.

PAKISTAN

INDIA-PAKISTAN TRAVEL FACILITY SAID LIKELY

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Apr 85 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, April 8--A proposal to abolish the requirement of report to police by travellers to India and Pakistan going on a short stay visa of two weeks, is said to be under the consideration of relevant authorities here.

It is believed that the question of liberalising the rigid requirements for persons travelling privately between the two countries was discussed in general terms during the visit of Indian Foreign Secretary Mr Romesh Bhandari to Islamabad a few days ago.

Initially, it is proposed that families travelling to India or Pakistan may notify their arrival to the police through personal appearance or only the male head of the family instead of all its members turning up to register themselves.

It is expected that the Pakistan Government may be ready with its response to the proposal which came from the Indian side when delegations of the two countries meet next.

Recently Pakistan and India began tourist exchange programme via their national air carriers which is considered a significant step since hitherto only members of divided families or pilgrims or persons going on official business were allowed to travel between the two countries.

The question of liberalising travel restrictions has been under consideration of both government for some years. Progress in this direction has, however, been slow mainly because the matter is linked with the question of general bilateral political relations.

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PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

ASGHAR KHAN CRITICIZED--Multan, April 2--Defunct Jamaat-e-Islami's General Secretary, Qazi Hussain Ahmed has lashed out at Tehrik-e-Istaqlal chief, Mohammad Asghar Khan and rejected his averments that the government must not dabble in religion. He described Asghar Khan's claim as baseless that PNA had nothing to do with the enforcement of Islamic system or "Nizam-e-Mustafa" in the country. Qazi explained the factual position and stated that the basic document under which PNA was formed clearly spelled out and affirmed that the basis of Pakistan's ideology were the Quran and Sunnah and that the Quran and Sunnah would be strictly adhered to in letter and spirit. Moreover, he said, every Muslim would be disciplined to mould his life in accordance with Islamic norms. Qazi further said that the new approach of the Tehrik chief that religion does not fall within the domain of the government is nothing else but a reminiscence of Western secularism and an outcome of ignorance in respect of Islamic tenets. He said that there was no truth in the assertion that the defunct Jamaat-e-Islami had opposed the term Nizam-e-Mustafa which was used during the PNA Movement, as an equivalent to the expression of an Islamic system. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 85 p 6]

CONCERN OVER DETENTIONS--Karachi, April 2--Over twenty writers and intellectuals of Sind have expressed their deep concern over the continued detention of the President and general secretary of Awami Tehrik, Mr Fazil Rahu and Mr Rasool Bakhsh Palejo. In a statement they said that the two leaders had been under detention for over two and six years, respectively. The signatories included Sirajul Huq Memon, Ibrahim Joyu, Tanveer Abbasi, G.M. Mehkari, Suleman Shaikh, Ghulam Mustafa Qasmi, Munshi Ibrahim, Miss Nasreen Junejo, Fakir Mohammad Lashari, Dastgir Bhatti, Abdur Rahman Palejo and Mohammad Khan Majidi. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 85 p 6]

NEW MENGAL SARDAR--Quetta, April 2--Sardar Attaullah Mengal, a self-exiled Baluch leader currently living in London relinquished his title of Sardar in favour of his 29 years old son, Munir Mengal, who was today formally instituted as new Sardar of his tribe at Wadh, 250 miles from Quetta. The local Sardars took part in the ceremony and expressed their full loyalty to the new tribal chieftain of the area. Meharullah Mengal, the younger brother of the Sardar Attaullah Mengal, specially flew into Pakistan from

London to take part in his nephew's "Dastar Bandi." Attaullah Mengal migrated from Pakistan over five years ago and has remained aloof from his tribe's affairs since that time. Recently he sent a message to his son, Munir Mengal, to take charge of the Mengal tribe and announced his retirement from his responsibilities. It may be added here that the Sardari system was abolished by the Bhutto regime in 1976, but the Sardars continued to cling to their age old traditions. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 85 p 8]

REARREST OF LEADER CONDEMNED--Peshawar, April 6--Mr Sarfaraz Mahmood, advocate, provincial convenor of the MRD, has strongly condemned the re-arrest of Mr Kaswar Gardezi, General Convener of the Alliance which he said, had exposed false commitments of the Government for restoration of democracy in Pakistan. In a statement, Mr Mahmood ridiculed the approach of the Government towards politicians and political parties and expressed his utter dismay on the policy of release and re-arrests of political leaders. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 7 Apr 85 p 2]

AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENT CRITICIZED--Peshawar, April 6--The NWFP chief of defunct Progressive Peoples' Party, Syed Shahzad Ali Shah, has criticised the nomination of a former Information Minister, Raja Zafarul Haq, as Pakistan's Ambassador to Egypt. In a statement Syed Shahzad expressed surprise that a person rejected by the people in recent elections should be picked up to represent Pakistan abroad. He doubted that Raja Zafarul Haq could do justice to Pakistan while holding such an important Ambassadorial assignment in a country like Egypt which pivot of the politics of the Arab world. He has called upon the Government to reconsider its decision and withdraw appointment orders of the Raja and the people like Raja Zafarul Haq would bring nothing but "discredit" to Pakistan when posted abroad, Mr Shahzad remarked. He asked the Prime Minister, the elected representative, to reject Raja's appointment particularly in the event when defeated candidates were debarred even from the Senate candidacy. He warned that such people could only serve vested interests at the cost of national interests. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 7 Apr 85 p 4]

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